United Nations S/RES/2401 (2018)

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 February 2018

Resolution 2401 (2018)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 8188th meeting, on 24 February 2018

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2042 (2012), 2043 (2012), 2118 (2013), 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2175 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2209 (2015), 2235 (2015), 2249 (2015), 2254 (2015), 2258 (2015), 2268 (2016), 2286 (2016), 2332 (2016), 2336 (2016) and 2393 (2017), and its Presidential Statements of 3 August 2011 (S/PRST/2011/16), 21 March 2012 (S/PRST/2012/6), 5 April 2012 (S/PRST/2012/10), 2 October 2013 (S/PRST/2013/15), 24 April 2015 (S/PRST/2015/10) and 17 August 2015 (S/PRST/2015/15),

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Syria, and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reiterating its grave distress at the continued severity of the devastating humanitarian situation in Syria, including in Eastern Ghouta, Idlib Governorate, Northern Hama Governorate, Rukhban and Raqqa, and at the fact that urgent humanitarian assistance, including medical assistance, is now required by more than 13.1 million people in Syria, of whom 6.1 million are internally displaced, 2.5 million are living in hard-to-reach areas, including Palestinian refugees, and hundreds of thousands of civilians are trapped in besieged areas,

Expressing outrage at the unacceptable levels of violence escalating in several parts of the country, in particular in Idlib Governorate and Eastern Ghouta but also Damascus City, including shelling on diplomatic premises, and at attacks against civilians, civilian objects and medical facilities, further compounding suffering and displacing large numbers of people, *recalling* in this regard the legal obligations of all parties under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as well as all relevant decisions of the Security Council, especially to cease all attacks against civilians and civilian objects, including those involving attacks on schools and medical facilities,

Expressing concern for those returning to areas, including those retaken from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh), that are contaminated by explosive remnants of war and need resilience and stabilization support and *expressing disturbance* at the humanitarian situation in Raqqa,

Please recycle

Reiterating its deep disturbance at the lack of United Nations humanitarian access to besieged populations in recent months, *expressing* grave alarm at the dire situation of the hundreds of thousands of civilians trapped in besieged areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, especially in Eastern Ghouta, Yarmouk, Foua and Kefraya, and *reaffirming* that sieges directed against civilian populations in Syria are a violation of international humanitarian law, and *calling* for the immediate lifting of all sieges,

Expressing its disturbance at the humanitarian situation for the internally displaced persons in Rukhban and *stressing* in this regard the need to ensure humanitarian access to Rukhban from inside Syria and the need for a sustainable solution,

Noting the ongoing work on de-escalation areas to reduce violence as a step towards a comprehensive nation-wide ceasefire, *emphasizing* the need for all parties to respect their commitments to existing ceasefire agreements, and that humanitarian access must be granted as part of these efforts in accordance with international humanitarian law,

Reaffirming that Member States must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law,

Emphasizing that the humanitarian situation will continue to deteriorate further in the absence of a political solution to the Syrian conflict in line with resolution 2254 (2015), *calling upon* all parties to make progress in this regard and to undertake confidence-building measures, including the early release of any arbitrarily detained persons, particularly women and children,

Expressing outrage at the insufficient implementation of its resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2268 (2016), 2332 (2016) and 2393 (2017),

Determining that the devastating humanitarian situation in Syria continues to constitute a threat to peace and security in the region,

Underscoring that Member States are obligated under Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations to accept and carry out the Council's decisions,

1. *Demands* that all parties cease hostilities without delay, and engage immediately to ensure full and comprehensive implementation of this demand by all parties, for a durable humanitarian pause for at least 30 consecutive days throughout Syria, to enable the safe, unimpeded and sustained delivery of humanitarian aid and services and medical evacuations of the critically sick and wounded, in accordance with applicable international law;

2. *Affirms* that the cessation of hostilities shall not apply to military operations against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh), Al Qaeda and Al Nusra Front (ANF), and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al Qaeda or ISIL, and other terrorist groups, as designated by the Security Council;

3. *Calls upon* all parties to respect and fulfil their commitments to existing ceasefire agreements, including the full implementation of resolution 2268, furthermore *calls upon* all Member States to use their influence with the parties to ensure implementation of the cessation of hostilities, the fulfilment of existing commitments and to support efforts to create conditions for a durable and lasting ceasefire and *stresses* the need for relevant guarantees from those Member States;

4. *Calls upon* all relevant Member States to coordinate efforts to monitor the cessation of hostilities, building on existing arrangements;

5. *Further demands* that, immediately after the start of the cessation of hostilities, all parties shall allow safe, unimpeded and sustained access each week for United Nations' and their implementing partners' humanitarian convoys, including medical and surgical supplies, to all requested areas and populations according to United Nations' assessment of need in all parts of Syria, in particular to those 5.6 million people in 1,244 communities in acute need, including the 2.9 million people in hard-to-reach and besieged locations, subject to standard UN security assessment;

6. *Demands moreover* that, immediately after the start of the cessation of hostilities, all parties shall allow the United Nations and its implementing partners to undertake safe, unconditional medical evacuations, based on medical need and urgency, subject to standard UN security assessment;

7. *Reiterates its demand*, reminding in particular the Syrian authorities, that all parties immediately comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, as applicable, and international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians as well as to ensure the respect and protection of all medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and to fully and immediately implement all provisions of all relevant Security Council resolutions;

8. *Demands* that all parties facilitate safe and unimpeded passage for medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their equipment, transport and supplies, including surgical items, to all people in need, consistent with international humanitarian law and *reiterates its demand* that all parties demilitarize medical facilities, schools and other civilian facilities and avoid establishing military positions in populated areas and desist from attacks directed against civilian objects;

9. *Takes note* with appreciation of the five requests identified by the Emergency Relief Coordinator on 11 January 2018 during his mission to Syria, and *calls* upon all parties to facilitate the implementation of these five requests and others to ensure principled, sustained and improved humanitarian assistance to Syria in 2018;

10. *Calls upon* all parties to immediately lift the sieges of populated areas, including in Eastern Ghouta, Yarmouk, Foua and Kefraya, and *demands* that all parties allow the delivery of humanitarian assistance, including medical assistance, cease depriving civilians of food and medicine indispensable to their survival, and enable the rapid, safe and unhindered evacuation of all civilians who wish to leave, and *underscores* the need for the parties to agree on humanitarian pauses, days of tranquillity, localized ceasefires and truces to allow humanitarian agencies safe and unhindered access to all affected areas in Syria, recalling that starvation of civilians as a method of combat is prohibited by international humanitarian law;

11. *Calls for* humanitarian mine action to be accelerated as a matter of urgency throughout Syria;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the implementation of this resolution, and on compliance by all relevant parties in Syria, within 15 days of adoption of this resolution and thereafter within the framework of its reporting on resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016) and 2393 (2017);

13. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/RES/2402 (2018)

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 February 2018

Resolution 2402 (2018)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 8190th meeting, on 26 February 2018

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2014 (2011), 2051 (2012), 2140 (2014), 2201 (2015), 2204 (2015), 2216 (2015), 2266 (2016), and 2342 (2017) and the statements of its President dated 15 February 2013 (S/PRST/2013/3), 29 August 2014 (S/PRST/2014/18), 22 March 2015 (S/PRST/2015/8) and 25 April 2016 (S/PRST/2016/5), and 15 June 2017 (S/PRST/2017/7) concerning Yemen,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Yemen,

Expressing concern at the ongoing political, security, economic and humanitarian challenges in Yemen, including the ongoing violence, and threats arising from the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of weapons,

Reiterating its call for all parties in Yemen to adhere to resolving their differences through dialogue and consultation, reject acts of violence to achieve political goals, and refrain from provocation,

Reaffirming the need for all parties to comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law as applicable,

Expressing its support for and commitment to the work of the Special Envoy for Yemen to the Secretary-General in support of the Yemeni transition process,

Expressing its grave concern that areas of Yemen are under the control of Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and about the negative impact of their presence, violent extremist ideology and actions on stability in Yemen and the region, including the devastating humanitarian impact on the civilian populations, *expressing* concern at the increasing presence and future potential growth of the Islamic State in Iraq and Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) affiliates in Yemen and *reaffirming its resolve* to address all aspects of the threat posed by AQAP, ISIL (Da'esh), and all other associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities,

Recalling the listing of Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and associated individuals on the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List and stressing in this regard the need for robust implementation of the measures in paragraph 2 of resolution 2253 (2015) as a significant tool in combating terrorist activity in Yemen,

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Noting the critical importance of effective implementation of the sanctions regime imposed pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014) and resolution 2216 (2015), including the key role that Member States from the region can play in this regard, and encouraging *efforts* to further enhance cooperation,

Recalling the provisions of paragraph 14 of resolution 2216 (2015) imposing a targeted arms embargo,

Gravely distressed by the continued deterioration of the devastating humanitarian situation in Yemen, *expressing serious concern* at all instances of hindrances to the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance, including limitations on the delivery of vital goods to the civilian population of Yemen,

Emphasizing the necessity of discussion by the Committee established pursuant to paragraph 19 of resolution 2140 (2014) ("the Committee"), of the recommendations contained in the Panel of Experts reports,

Determining that the situation in Yemen continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Reaffirms* the need for the full and timely implementation of the political transition following the comprehensive National Dialogue Conference, in line with the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and Implementation Mechanism, and in accordance with resolutions 2014 (2011), 2051 (2012), 2140 (2014), 2201 (2015), 2204 (2015) 2216 (2015), and 2266 (2016) and with regard to the expectations of the Yemeni people;

2. *Decides* to renew until 26 February 2019 the measures imposed by paragraphs 11 and 15 of resolution 2140 (2014), *reaffirms* the provisions of paragraphs 12, 13, 14 and 16 of resolution 2140 (2015), and *further reaffirms* the provisions of paragraphs 14 to 17 of resolution 2216 (2015);

Designation Criteria

3. *Reaffirms* that the provisions of paragraphs 11 and 15 of resolution 2140 (2014) and paragraph 14 of resolution 2216 (2015) shall apply to individuals or entities designated by the Committee, or listed in the annex to resolution 2216 (2015) as engaging in or providing support for acts that threaten the peace, security or stability of Yemen;

4. *Reaffirms* the designation criteria set out in paragraph 17 of resolution 2140 (2014) and paragraph 19 of resolution 2216 (2015);

Reporting

5. *Decides* to extend until 28 March 2019 the mandate of the Panel of Experts as set out in paragraph 21 of resolution 2140 (2014), and paragraph 21 of resolution 2216 (2015), *expresses its intention* to review the mandate and take appropriate action regarding the further extension no later than 28 February 2019, and *requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary administrative measures as expeditiously as possible to re-establish the Panel of Experts, in consultation with the Committee until 28 March 2019 drawing, as appropriate, on the expertise of the members of the Panel established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014);

6. *Requests* the Panel of Experts to provide a midterm update to the Committee no later than 28 July 2018, and a final report no later than 28 January 2019 to the Security Council, after discussion with the Committee;

7. *Directs* the Panel to cooperate with other relevant expert groups established by the Security Council to support the work of its Sanctions Committees, in particular the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established by resolution 1526 (2004) and extended by resolution 2253 (2015);

8. *Urges* all parties and all Member States, as well as international, regional and subregional organizations to ensure cooperation with the Panel of Experts and *further urges* all Member States involved to ensure the safety of the members of the Panel of Experts and unhindered access, in particular to persons, documents and sites, in order for the Panel of Experts to execute its mandate;

9. *Emphasizes* the importance of holding consultations with concerned Member States, as may be necessary, in order to ensure full implementation of the measures set forth in this resolution;

10. *Calls upon* all Member States which have not already done so to report to the Committee as soon as possible on the steps they have taken with a view to implementing effectively the measures imposed by paragraphs 11 and 15 of resolution 2140 (2014) and paragraph 14 of resolution 2216 (2015) and *recalls* in this regard that Member States undertaking cargo inspections pursuant to paragraph 15 of resolution 2216 (2015) are required to submit written reports to the Committee as set out in paragraph 17 of resolution 2216 (2015);

11. *Recalls* the Informal Working Group on General issues of Sanctions report (S/2006/997) on best practices and methods, including paragraphs 21, 22 and 23 that discuss possible steps for clarifying methodological standards for monitoring mechanisms;

12. *Reaffirms* its intention to keep the situation in Yemen under continuous review and its readiness to review the appropriateness of the measures contained in this resolution, including the strengthening, modification, suspension or lifting of the measures, as may be needed at any time in light of developments;

13. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/RES/2403 (2018)

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 February 2018

Resolution 2403 (2018)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 8193rd meeting, on 28 February 2018

The Security Council,

Noting with regret the resignation of Judge Hisashi Owada, to take effect on 7 June 2018,

Noting further that a vacancy in the International Court of Justice for the remainder of the term of office of Judge Hisashi Owada will thus occur and must be filled in accordance with the terms of the Statute of the Court,

Noting that, in accordance with article 14 of the Statute, the date of the election to fill the vacancy shall be fixed by the Security Council,

Decides that the election to fill the vacancy shall take place on 22 June 2018 at a meeting of the Security Council and at a meeting of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session.

18-03144 (E)

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United Nations S/RES/2404 (2018)

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 February 2018

Resolution 2404 (2018)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 8194th meeting, on 28 February 2018

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions, statements of its President and press statements on the situation in Guinea-Bissau, in particular resolutions 1876 (2009), 2030 (2011), 2048 (2012), 2092 (2013), 2103 (2013), 2157 (2014), 2186 (2014), 2203 (2015), 2267 (2016) and 2343 (2017),

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on Guinea-Bissau, dated 9 February 2018 (S/2018/110) and the recommendations contained therein, and underscoring the Secretary-General's positive appreciation of the role of his Special Representative and head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) in assisting the Government of Guinea-Bissau,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Guinea Bissau, emphasizing that the Bissau-Guinean authorities have primary responsibility for the provision of stability and security throughout the territory of the country, and underscoring the importance of national ownership to implement inclusive political, peace and security related initiatives,

Stressing the continued need for the Government of Guinea-Bissau to take concrete steps towards ensuring peace, security and stability in the country, by inclusively resolving the Guinea Bissau political crisis, organizing free, fair, credible and transparent legislative and presidential elections as stipulated in the Bissau-Guinean Constitution, effectively reforming the security sector, tackling corruption through the reinforcement of the judicial system, improving public administration and State revenue management, as well as the supply of basic services to the population, promoting and protecting human rights and commending its commitment to the implementation of its national priorities,

Expressing concern regarding the ongoing protracted political and institutional crisis among the main political actors, including but not limited to the President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of Parliament and Head of political parties in Guinea Bissau which has prevented the country from moving forward with ensuring peace and stability through implementing its national reform agenda and threatens to undermine the progress made since the restoration of constitutional order following the elections held in 2014,

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Expressing also concern for the situation of citizens of Guinea-Bissau, who are suffering the negative effects of the political crisis, and urging all political actors to put the interest of the Bissau-Guinean people above all other consideration,

Welcoming the continued engagement of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Modibo Ibrahim Touré, the President of the Republic of Togo, His Excellency Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the President of the Republic of Guinea, His Excellency Alpha Conde, in his capacity of ECOWAS Mediator for Guinea-Bissau, the Special Representative of the African Union, Ovidio Pequeno, and other interlocutors in the search for a peaceful solution to the impasse and *recalling* the need for concerted action among the United Nations, ECOWAS, the African Union, the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP), and the European Union (EU),

Welcoming also the continued efforts of the five international organizations involved in the peacebuilding process in Guinea-Bissau (African Union, CPLP, ECOWAS, European Union, United Nations) and supporting their appeals to all stakeholders in Guinea-Bissau, to respect the principles established in the UN Charter and their obligations under International Human Rights Treaties and to refrain from any public action or discourse likely to aggravate tensions in the country,

Recalling, that the implementation of the Conakry Agreement of 14 October 2016, based on the ECOWAS road map entitled "Agreement on the resolution of the political crisis in Guinea-Bissau", is the primary framework for a peaceful resolution of the political crisis, as it offers an historic opportunity for national authorities and political leaders, as well as civil society, to jointly ensure political stability and build sustainable peace,

Commending the continued mediation efforts of ECOWAS to promote the implementation of the ECOWAS road map and the Conakry Agreement, as demonstrated by the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of States and Government, in Addis Ababa, on 27 January 2018, Inviting the President of Guinea-Bissau to appoint a consensus Prime Minister and the signatory parties to form a government in conformity with the Conakry Agreement, no later than 31 January 2018, and *acknowledging* the communique of 01 February 2018, following its high level mediation mission to Bissau and determination that the Conakry Agreement had not been respected, and, in this regard, its direction to the president of the commission to implement sanctions against any person or organization impeding the process for ending the crisis in Guinea Bissau and *noting* the ECOWAS Authority's strong appeal to the African Union, CPLP, European Union and United Nations to support ECOWAS in the effective implementation of these sanctions,

Emphasizing the need for respect of democratic principles and stressing the importance of national reconciliation, inclusive dialogue and good governance, essential for the attainment of lasting peace in Guinea-Bissau, further stressing the importance of including all Bissau-Guineans ensuring the full and effective participation of women and youth in this process at national and local levels, while upholding the principles of separation of powers, rule of law, justice and combating impunity, and encouraging all stakeholders to engage in the process,

Noting that delays in the implementation of the Conakry Agreement have undermined the efforts of dialogue and the review of the applicable legal framework before the holding of the legislative and presidential elections in 2018 and 2019, respectively, and further *taking note* that the institutional paralysis, in particular of the National Assembly, has prevented progress in relation to the review of the Constitution,

Stressing that the consolidation of peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau can only result from a consensual, inclusive and nationally owned process, respect for constitutional order, priority reforms in the defence, security and justice sectors, the promotion of the rule of law, the protection of human rights, the promotion of socioeconomic development and the fight against impunity and drug trafficking, in the framework of the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Guinea-Bissau,

Reaffirming the importance of the continued non-interference of the defence and security forces in the political situation in Guinea-Bissau, and commending the restraint shown in this regard as well as the peacefulness of the people of Guinea-Bissau,

Underscoring the importance of the Government of Guinea-Bissau, with the support of UNIOGBIS and international partners, to continue developing national security and rule of law institutions that are impartial, transparent, accountable and professional,

Stressing that all stakeholders in Guinea-Bissau should work to ensure short, medium and long-term stability through clear commitment and genuine inclusive political dialogue aimed at creating conditions conducive to finding viable and sustainable solutions to the country's social, economic, political and military problems, which would facilitate the implementation of key reforms and the strengthening of State institutions,

Encouraging continued efforts of the Government to ensure effective civilian control and oversight over the defence and security forces, as failure to do so could adversely affect the effective functioning of State institutions, as a result of collusion between some political actors and the military leadership,

Commending the efforts of ECOWAS in helping to sustain peace, security and development and to support the security sector reform (SSR) process in Guinea-Bissau namely through the activities of its Mission (ECOMIB),

Welcoming the continued contribution of ECOMIB in promoting stability in Guinea-Bissau and *encouraging* the international community to continue supporting and assisting ECOMIB,

Encouraging the commitment, efforts of mediation and direct contacts of the African Union with the political actors of Guinea Bissau in view of stepping up the efforts to help overcome the current blockage of the political situation,

Reiterating its call on the Government of Guinea-Bissau to conduct transparent, independent and credible investigations into human rights violations and abuses, in accordance with international standards, and to hold those responsible accountable for their actions,

Reiterating its concern at the threat posed by drug trafficking, as well as trafficking in all forms, including trafficking in persons, and related transnational organized crime to peace and stability; and, in this regard, *encouraging* sustained efforts of the Government of Guinea-Bissau, ECOWAS, UNIOGBIS, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other relevant stakeholders in combating this issue,

Re-emphasizing the need to tackle the problem of drug trafficking in the countries of origin, transit and final destination on a basis of a common and shared responsibility, to tackle the world drug problem and related criminal activities; and, in this regard, stressing the need for increased coherence, coordination and efficiency among relevant partners to enhance their collective efforts, in particular through sharing of information, underlining that any lasting solution to instability in Guinea-

Bissau should include concrete actions to fight impunity and ensure that those responsible for politically motivated assassinations and other serious crimes such as breaches of constitutional order and drug trafficking-related activities are brought to justice, including through national judicial mechanisms,

Reiterating the importance and urgency of the continued evaluation capacity and support provided by the relevant United Nations entities and international, regional, sub-regional and bilateral partners for the long-term security and development of Guinea-Bissau, particularly towards the implementation of security and justice sectors reforms, the fight against transnational organized crime as well as the creation of an enabling environment for good governance and inclusive and sustainable social development, and in this regard, commending the important work UNODC in collaboration with relevant United Nations entities in Guinea -Bissau and the sub-region, and encouraging enhanced cooperation between UNODC and UNIOGBIS,

Urging Bissau-Guinean national stakeholders to demonstrate the necessary commitment to re-establish momentum for progress in key areas, as outlined in the programme "Terra Ranka" presented to the donor community at the Brussels round table held in March 2015,

Emphasizing the role of UNICEF working closely with government to create the proper conditions to provide education for the children of Guinea -Bissau,

Emphasizing the important role of women in prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, as recognized in resolutions 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolution on women, peace and security,

Emphasizing the cooperation between UNIOGBIS, national authorities and civil society organizations to increase women's social and political participation in Guinea-Bissau and underlining that a gender perspective must continue to inform the implementation of all relevant aspects of the mandate of UNIOGBIS, including national reconciliation processes, institution building and to address the root causes of instability,

Reaffirming that Guinea-Bissau's partners should continue to actively and closely coordinate their actions in support of the Government's efforts to address the country's political, security and development challenges, and in this regard, recalling the coordinated and long-standing support provided by the country's partners, namely those in the United Nations system, the African Union, ECOWAS, the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP), the EU, the World Bank, and the African Development Bank, to the Government during the International Donor Conference for Guinea-Bissau held on 25 March 2015 in Brussels,

Welcoming the African Union Peace and Security Council Communiqué of its 734th meeting, held on 14 November 2017, underscoring the need for credible elections, notably legislative elections in 2018 to be held according to legal timelines,

Welcoming the continued engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) with Guinea Bissau, and *noting* the briefing by the Chair of the PBC configuration for Guinea Bissau on 14 February 2018 reiterating its support to the Conakry Agreement, stressing the importance of holding free and fair elections in accordance with the Constitution of Guinea Bissau, and underlining the importance of renewing the mandate of UNIOGBIS of another year,

Reaffirming its full commitment to the consolidation of peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau,

Renewal of the mandate

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of UNIOGBIS for a period of 12 months beginning on 1 March 2018 until 28 February 2019;

2. *Calls* for the implementation of the recommendations of the strategic review mission regarding the need of UNIOGBIS to refocus its existing efforts towards political capacities in support of the SRSG's good offices and to streamline its management structure, and *encourages* UNIOGBIS to operate in a more effective and efficient manner;

3. *Requests* UNIOGBIS, including through the use of the good offices and political support of the Special Representative, to focus, in particular, on the following priorities:

(a) Support the full implementation of the Conakry Agreement and the ECOWAS Roadmap, and facilitate an inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation process, strengthening democratic governance, particularly with regards to the implementation of necessary urgent reforms;

(b) Support, through good offices the electoral process to ensure inclusive, free and credible legislative elections in 2018 within the legally mandated time frame;

(c) Providing support, including by technical assistance, to national authorities in expediting and completing the review of Guinea-Bissau's Constitution;

4. *Affirms* that in addition to the abovementioned priorities, UNIOGBIS and the Special Representative will continue to assist, coordinate and lead international efforts in the following areas to ensure lasting peace and stability in Guinea Bissau:

(a) Providing support to the Government of Guinea-Bissau in strengthening democratic institutions and enhancing the capacity of state organs to function effectively and constitutionally;

(b) Assisting national authorities and stakeholders in the promotion and protection of human rights as well as undertake human rights monitoring and reporting activities;

(c) Providing strategic and technical advice and support to the Government of Guinea-Bissau to combat drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, in close cooperation with UNODC;

(d) Providing support to the Government of Guinea-Bissau to incorporate a gender perspective into peacebuilding, in line with Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008) and 2242 (2015); as well as implementation of the National Action Plan on Gender in order to ensure the involvement, representation and participation of women at all levels through inter alia the provision of gender advisers;

(e) Support the Government of Guinea Bissau, in close cooperation with the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, in the mobilization, harmonization and coordination of international assistance namely from African Union, ECOWAS, CPLP and the European Union, with view to upcoming elections;

Political and human rights situation

5. *Supports* the efforts of ECOWAS to ensure a swift resolution of the crisis and took note of its decision of 4 February 2018 to impose sanctions against those obstructing the implementation of the Conakry Agreement, the only consensual framework to find a lasting solution to this crisis, whose prerequisite remains the appointment of a consensus Prime Minister and an inclusive Government;

6. *Calls* upon the Bissau-Guinea stakeholders to strictly respect and comply with the Conakry Agreement and the ECOWAS road map in addressing their differences and the challenges facing their country, and *further calls* upon the Bissau-Guinea stakeholders to refrain from actions and statements that could escalate tensions and incite violence;

7. *Urges* all political actors to put the interest of the people of Guinea Bissau above all other consideration and in this regard, calls upon Bissau-Guinean leaders to strictly respect and comply with the Conakry Agreement and the Bissau 6 point roadmap in addressing their differences and the challenges facing their country, especially in view of stipulated legislative elections in 2018 and further calls upon the Bissau-Guinean stakeholders to refrain from actions and statements that could escalate tensions and incite violence;

8. *Stresses* the importance of holding legislative elections within the legally-mandated timeframe in 2018, and presidential elections in 2019; recalls the relevance of passing key reforms, as outlined in the Conakry Agreement, aimed at creating a conducive environment for the holding of legislative and presidential elections in 2018 and 2019, reform of the electoral code and promulgation of a new law on political parties and *requests* UNIOGBIS to work closely with national authorities, as well as the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in support of the timely conduct of these elections, and to strengthen democracy and good governance;

9. *Calls* upon the authorities of Guinea-Bissau and all stakeholders, including the military, political parties, and civil society to engage in inclusive, genuine dialogue, and work together to consolidate progress made so far, and to address the root causes of instability with particular attention to political-military dynamics, constitutional review, ineffective state institutions and rule of law, impunity and human rights violations and abuses, poverty and lack of access to basic services;

10. *Underscores* the need for inclusive dialogue of all stakeholders to consolidate peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau and calls upon the national authorities to expedite the review of Guinea-Bissau's Constitution;

11. *Calls* on the security and defence services to continue to submit themselves fully to civilian control;

12. *Commends* the important efforts of ECOWAS and *encourages* ECOWAS to continue extending its political support to the authorities and political leaders of Guinea Bissau through the use of good offices and mediation;

13. *Encourages* ECOWAS and CPLP to take the necessary steps towards organizing a meeting of the International Contact Group on Guinea-Bissau, in consultation with the United Nations, EU, and all stakeholders;

14. *Takes* note of the human rights situation in the country and urges the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to take all necessary measures to promote and protect human rights, put an end to impunity, initiate investigations to identify the perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses, including those against women and children, and bring them to justice and take action to protect witnesses in order to ensure due process;

15. *Deplores* the reported lack of respect for the right of peaceful assembly as recognized by the Constitution of Guinea-Bissau, as well as the legal instruments of ECOWAS, the African Union and the United Nations on the matter and *urges* all Guinea-Bissau authorities to ensure strict respect for their obligations under international human rights laws;

16. *Welcomes* the joint efforts by international partners, in particular the United Nations, African Union, ECOWAS, EU and CPLP, to enhance cooperation in

support of the Government in Guinea-Bissau and encourages them to continue to work together towards the country's stabilization in accordance with the priority structural reforms established by the government, and in this regard, recognizes the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in enhancing these efforts with a view to supporting the long-term peacebuilding priorities of Guinea-Bissau;

17. *Reiterates* the importance of the implementation of defence and security sector reforms as a crucial element for long-term stability in Guinea-Bissau and further encourages coordinated action by all relevant sub-regional, regional and international partners of Guinea-Bissau in this field in order to obtain expeditious and positive results;

18. *Welcomes* the extension by ECOWAS of the mandate of ECOMIB until 31 March 2018 to enable the political actors in Guinea-Bissau to effectively implement the Conakry Agreement, *commends* the crucial role of ECOMIB in securing the state institutions and in supporting SSR, expresses strong appreciation for its contribution to stability in Guinea-Bissau and encourages ECOWAS to consider a further extension of its mandate, supports its continuation throughout the electoral cycles in 2018 and 2019 and urges bilateral, regional and international partners to consider providing financial assistance to support ECOWAS in sustaining the deployment of ECOMIB, commends the financial support provided by the EU and welcomes its willingness to consider options for providing further support to ECOMIB;

19. *Calls* upon the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to continue to actively reform and strengthen the judicial system, while ensuring the separation of powers and access to justice for all citizens;

20. *Reiterates* its call upon the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to implement and review national legislations and mechanisms to more effectively combat transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking, trafficking in persons and money-laundering, which threaten security and stability in Guinea-Bissau and in the sub-region, and in this context, to ensure support to the Transnational Crime Unit (TCU) established under the West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI) and the Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) and national counternarcotics enforcement units; *encourages* international bilateral and multilateral partners to increase their support to these institutions and further encourages these partners to contribute to support the presence of UNODC in Guinea-Bissau and to the UNIOGBIS Trust Fund for immediate, medium and longer-term priorities; calls upon the international community to continue cooperation with Guinea-Bissau to enable it to ensure control of air traffic and surveillance of maritime security within its jurisdiction, in particular to fight drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, as well as illegal fishing in Guinea-Bissau's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone and other cases of illegal exploitation of natural resources; and calls on the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to demonstrate full commitment to combating drug trafficking through provision of adequate resources and political support to counternarcotic units, their investigations and pursuit of accountability for perpetrators;

21. *Stresses* the importance of combating drug trafficking to achieve political and economic stability in Guinea-Bissau, requests the Secretary-General to ensure the relevant capacity within the existing UNIOGBIS structure, and requests that the Secretary-General collaborate with UNODC and international partners to guarantee sufficient staffing for the UNODC office in Bissau, to contribute to the anti-drug efforts, including appropriate expertise and further requests the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to increase efforts to achieve greater coherence, coordination and efficiency among relevant United Nations agencies,

funds and programmes in the country to maximize their collective effectiveness, in particular through provision by these agencies, funds and programmes of relevant information to the Special Representative on individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with drug trafficking and transnational organized crime that contribute to creating a threat to the peace, stability and security of Guinea-Bissau and the sub-region;

22. *Commends* the good offices role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to support the Government of Guinea-Bissau;

23. *Commends* the important efforts of ECOWAS, *encourages* ECOWAS to continue extending its political support to the authorities and political leaders of Guinea-Bissau through the use of good offices and mediation, further *encourages* the African Union, the CPLP, the European Union and the United Nations to provide support to ECOWAS, and *acknowledges*, in this regard its 04 February 2018 adoption of targeted sanctions against those impeding the process to end the crisis in Guinea Bissau as well as the request by ECOWAS and African Union to support their implementation of these sanctions;

24. *Stresses* the need for all national stakeholders and Guinea-Bissau's international bilateral and multilateral partners to remain committed to enforce the Conakry Agreement and, in this context, *encourage* ECOWAS to continue close coordination with the United Nations, African Union, CPLP and European Union aimed at the implementation of the Conakry Agreement;

25. *Welcomes* continued engagement of the African Union in promoting a peaceful solution to the current political impasse in Guinea Bissau and the Communique of the 752nd meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union number PCS/Pr/COMM. (DCCLII) issued on 13 February 2018 in this regard;

26. *Express* the Security Council's readiness to take additional measures to respond to further worsening of the situation in Guinea Bissau;

27. *Decides* to review the sanctions measures established pursuant to resolution 2048 (2012) seven months from the adoption of this resolution;

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28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide an oral update within 3 months on the political and security situation in Guinea Bissau and its preparation for elections, and submit to the Security Council regular reports every six months on the implementation of this resolution, and within 9 months submit the Secretary-General's assessment of the Mission including options for a possible reconfiguration of the United Nations presence in the country and re-prioritization of tasks, and to submit a report within six months, with a briefing to the Committee established pursuant to its resolution 2048 (2012), on the progress made with regards to the stabilization of the country and restoration of constitutional order and recommendations on the continuation of the sanctions regime in the post-election environment, in line with paragraph 12 of resolution 2048 (2012);

29. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/RES/2405 (2018)

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 March 2018

Resolution 2405 (2018)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 8199th meeting, on 8 March 2018

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions on Afghanistan, in particular its resolution 2344 (2017) extending through 17 March 2018 the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA),

Stressing the important role that the United Nations will continue to play in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan,

Recalling its recent visit to Kabul from 13–15 January as an affirmation of the international community's continued and steadfast support for a peaceful, secure, stable and prosperous Afghanistan,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, as well as its continued support for the Government and people of Afghanistan as they rebuild their country and strengthen democratic institutions,

Stressing the central importance of a comprehensive and inclusive Afghan-led and Afghan-owned political process to support reconciliation for all those who are prepared to reconcile as laid forth in the Kabul Conference Communiqué and further elaborated in the Bonn Conference Conclusions, aimed at creating a peaceful and prosperous future for all the people of Afghanistan and welcoming efforts to advance the peace process, including via the High Peace Council,

Emphasizing the vital role of the Kabul Process and welcoming the strategic consensus between the Government of Afghanistan and the international community on the Self-Reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework (SMAF),

Welcoming the start of the fourth year of the National Unity Government and emphasizing the importance of all parties in Afghanistan working within its framework in order to achieve a peaceful and prosperous future for all the people of Afghanistan,

Recalling the announcement by the Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan that parliamentary and district council elections will take place in 2018, emphasizing the importance of accelerated progress on electoral reform in Afghanistan and towards the holding of credible and inclusive parliamentary and district council elections in 2018 and presidential elections in 2019, and stressing the

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need for continued support of UNAMA in this regard, at the request of the Afghan authorities,

Stressing the importance of a comprehensive approach to address the security, economic, governance and development challenges in Afghanistan, which are of an interconnected nature, and recognizing that there is no purely military solution to ensure the stability of Afghanistan,

Reiterating the importance of advancing regional, interregional and international cooperation, in support of building a community of shared future for mankind, to promote long-term peace, security, prosperity, sustainable development and human rights in Afghanistan, and welcoming joint efforts to enhance dialogue and collaboration and to advance shared goals of economic development across the region,

Recognizing in this regard the positive impact and ongoing importance of international commitments made at the NATO Warsaw Summit in 2016, and as reiterated in 2017, and the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan in 2016, and welcoming the announcement of the US Strategy for Afghanistan on 21 August 2017 and the European Union Strategy on Afghanistan, adopted on 16 October 2017 as important developments in the context of continued international support for security, development and stability in Afghanistan,

Welcoming the contribution of the International Contact Group (ICG) to the United Nations efforts in coordinating and broadening international support for Afghanistan,

Taking note of the Seventh Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on November 14–15 2017 and the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process Ministerial Meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan on 1 December 2017,

Underlining the importance of operationally capable, professional, inclusive and sustainable Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF) for meeting Afghanistan's security needs, stressing the commitment of the international community to support their further development, and commending the resiliency, progress and exceptional courage displayed by ANDSF as well as their leading role in securing their country and fighting against international terrorism, and welcoming in this regard ongoing commitments to enhance the effectiveness and accountability of Afghan national security institutions,

Expressing its deep concern about the continuous high level of violence in Afghanistan, especially the number of civilian casualties, condemning in the strongest terms all terrorist activity and all violent attacks, reiterating that attacks deliberately targeting civilians are prohibited under international humanitarian law and may amount to war crimes, and calling for compliance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as applicable,

Recognizing the continuously alarming threats posed by the Taliban, including the Haqqani Network, as well as by Al-Qaida, ISIL (Da'esh) affiliates and other terrorist groups, violent and extremist groups and illegal armed groups, as well as the challenges related to the efforts to address such threats, and expressing its serious concern over the harmful consequences of violent and terrorist activities by all the above-mentioned groups on the capacity of the Afghan Government to guarantee the rule of law, to provide security and basic services to the Afghan people, and to ensure the improvement and protection of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Expressing concern with the serious threat that anti-personnel mines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices (IED) pose to the civilian

population, and noting the need to enhance coordination and information-sharing, both between Member States and with the private sector,

Expressing serious concern at the presence and growth of ISIL (Da'esh) affiliates activity in Afghanistan, posing serious threats to the security of Afghanistan and the countries of the region, including in Central Asia, and affirming its support to the efforts by the ANDSF to combat them as well as assistance by Afghanistan's international partners in this regard,

Reaffirming that all parties to armed conflict must take all feasible steps to ensure the protection of civilians, especially women, children and displaced persons, including from sexual and gender-based violence, and that perpetrators of such violence must be held accountable,

Noting the ongoing work of the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1988 (2011) and the continuation of the cooperation of the Afghan Government, the High Peace Council and UNAMA with the Committee, including its Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, and expressing its concern over the increasing cooperation of the Taliban with other organizations involved in criminal activities,

Expressing its deep concern about the continued high level of civilian casualties, as noted in the February 2018 UNAMA report on Protection of Civilians in armed conflict, and condemning the suicide attacks, often in civilian-populated areas, and the targeted and deliberate killings, in particular of women and girls, including high-level women officials and those promoting women's rights, as well as journalists,

Expressing its deep concern about the significant increase in the cultivation, production, trade and trafficking of illicit drugs in Afghanistan, as reflected in the Afghanistan Opium Survey published by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on 15 November 2017, encouraging the government of Afghanistan supported by the international community and regional partners to intensify efforts to address drug production and trafficking in a balanced and integrated approach, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility in addressing the drug problem of Afghanistan, and recognizing the important role played by UNODC in this regard,

Reaffirming that gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment, education, human rights, and full participation and engagement in all levels of decision-making are critical to efforts to maintain peace and security in Afghanistan, urging the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), and emphasizing the need for protection for women's rights activists,

Expressing serious concern over the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, and supporting the Afghan Government's essential role in the provision of humanitarian assistance to its citizens in coordination with efficient and effective delivery by United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, consistent with a One UN approach,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General of 27 February 2018 (S/2018/165);

2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the United Nations' long-term commitment, including throughout the Transformation Decade, to support the Government and the people of Afghanistan and reiterates its full support to the work of UNAMA and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and stresses the need to ensure continued adequate resourcing for UNAMA to fulfil its mandate;

3. *Welcomes* the findings of the strategic review of the mandated tasks, priorities and related resources of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, and calls for the implementation of the recommendations of the

Secretary-General, including with a view to aligning the mission's substantive functions in support of peace efforts with the Secretary-General's emphasis on integrating conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding into the three pillars of the work of the United Nations within Afghanistan, including in support of an intra Afghan dialogue leading to a stable and inclusive political environment;

4. *Decides* to extend until 17 March 2019 the mandate of UNAMA, as defined in its resolutions 1662 (2006), 1746 (2007), 1806 (2008), 1868 (2009), 1917 (2010), 1974 (2011), 2041 (2012), 2096 (2013), 2145 (2014), 2210 (2015), 2274 (2016), 2344 (2017) and paragraphs 6 and 7 below;

5. *Recognizes* that the renewed mandate of UNAMA is in support of Afghanistan's full assumption of leadership and ownership in the security, governance and development areas, consistent with the Transformation Decade (2015–2024) and with the understandings reached between Afghanistan and the international community in the international conferences in Kabul (2010), London (2010 and 2014), Bonn (2011), Tokyo (2012) and Brussels (2016), and the NATO Summits held in Lisbon (2010), Chicago (2012), Wales (2014), Warsaw (2016) and Brussels (2017);

6. *Decides further* that UNAMA and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, within their mandate and in a manner consistent with Afghan sovereignty, leadership and ownership, will continue to lead and coordinate the international civilian efforts, in full cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan and in accordance with the London, Kabul, Tokyo and Brussels Conferences Communiqués and the Bonn Conference Conclusions, with a particular focus on the priorities laid out below:

(a) provide outreach as well as good offices to support, if requested by and in close consultation with the government of Afghanistan, the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process, including through support to the High Peace Council and its activities and proposing and supporting confidence-building measures also in close consultation with the government of Afghanistan within the framework of the Afghan Constitution and with full respect for the implementation of measures and application of the procedures introduced by the Security Council in its resolutions 1267 (1999), 1988 (2011), 1989 (2011) and 2082 (2012), 2083 (2012) and 2255 (2015) as well as other relevant resolutions of the Council;

(b) support, at the request of the Afghan authorities, the organization of future Afghan elections, including the parliamentary and district council elections as foreseen for 2018 and the presidential elections in 2019, as well as to strengthen, in support of the Government of Afghanistan's efforts, including electoral reform efforts, the sustainability, integrity and inclusiveness of the electoral process, as agreed at the London, Kabul, Bonn, Tokyo and Brussels Conferences and the Chicago Summit; and provide capacity-building and technical assistance to the Afghan institutions involved in this process in close consultation and coordination with the government of Afghanistan;

(c) promote, as co-chair of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB), more coherent support by the international community to the Afghan Government's development and governance priorities, including through supporting the ongoing development and sequencing of the Government's reform agenda, mobilization of resources, coordination of international donors and organizations as facilitator and co-convener of development policy fora, including in developing and monitoring frameworks of mutual accountability, promoting coherent information sharing and analysis, design and delivery of development assistance in a manner consistent with Afghan sovereignty, leadership and ownership, and direction of the contributions of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, based on the "One

UN" approach, in particular for counter-narcotics, reconstruction and development activities; at the same time, coordinate also in a manner consistent with the Afghan leadership, ownership and sovereignty, international partners for follow-up, in particular through information sharing, prioritize efforts to increase the proportion of development aid delivered through the Afghan Government, in line with the commitments made at the Kabul and Tokyo Conferences, and support efforts to increase the mutual accountability and transparency, and the effectiveness of aid use in line with the commitments made at the Kabul, Tokyo and Brussels Conferences, including cost-effectiveness in this regard;

(d) support regional cooperation, with a view to assisting Afghanistan utilize its role at the heart of Asia to promote regional cooperation, and to work towards a stable and prosperous Afghanistan, building on the achievements made;

(e) continue, with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to cooperate with and strengthen the capacity of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), to cooperate also with the Afghan Government and relevant international and local non-governmental organizations to monitor the situation of civilians, to coordinate efforts to ensure their protection, to monitor places of detention, to promote accountability, and to assist in the full implementation of the fundamental freedoms and human rights provisions of the Afghan Constitution and international treaties to which Afghanistan is a State party, in particular those regarding the full enjoyment by women of their human rights, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);

(f) closely coordinate and cooperate, where relevant, with the non-combat Resolute Support Mission agreed upon between NATO and Afghanistan, as well as with the NATO Senior Civilian Representative;

7. *Calls on* UNAMA and the Special Representative to further increase efforts to achieve greater coherence, coordination and efficiency among relevant United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes in Afghanistan based on a "One UN" approach in close cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan with a view to maximizing their collective effectiveness in full alignment with the Government of Afghanistan's reform agenda, and continue to lead, in a manner fully consistent with the Afghan leadership, ownership and sovereignty, international civilian efforts aimed at reinforcing the role of Afghan institutions to perform their responsibilities, with an increased focus on capacity building in key areas identified by the Afghan Government, with a view, in all UN programmes and activities, to move towards a national implementation model with a clear action-oriented strategy for mutually agreed condition-based transition to Afghan leadership and ownership including making greater use of country systems, in the following priority areas:

(a) support through an appropriate UNAMA presence, to be determined in full consultation and cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan, and in support of the Afghan Government's efforts, implementation of the Kabul Process throughout the country, including through enhanced cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in line with the Government's policies;

(b) support the efforts of the Afghan Government in fulfilling its commitments as stated at the London, Kabul, Bonn and Tokyo Conferences, to improve governance and the rule of law including transitional justice, budget execution and the fight against corruption, throughout the country in accordance with the Kabul Process and the Self-Reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework (SMAF), with a view to helping bring the benefits of peace and the delivery of services in a timely and sustainable manner;

(c) coordinate and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, including in support of the Afghan Government and in accordance with humanitarian principles, with a view to reinforcing the Government's capacity, including by providing effective support to national and local authorities in assisting and protecting internally displaced persons and to creating conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees from neighbouring and other countries and internally displaced persons, with a particular focus on development solutions in areas of high returns;

8. *Calls upon* all Afghan and international parties to coordinate with UNAMA in the implementation of its mandate and in efforts to promote the security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel throughout the country;

9. *Stresses* the critical importance of a continued and appropriate presence of UNAMA and other United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes in the provinces, based on a "One UN" approach and in close consultation and coordination with and in support of the priorities of the Afghan Government, in response to needs and with a view to security and including the objective of overall United Nations effectiveness;

10. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts of the Afghan Government to advance the peace process, including by the High Peace Council and the provincial peace committees, and the implementation of the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme, to promote an inclusive, Afghan-led and Afghan-owned dialogue on reconciliation and political participation, including the effective and meaningful participation of women and women's rights groups, as laid forth in the Kabul Conference Communiqué on dialogue for all those who as part of an outcome of such a process renounce violence, have no links to international terrorist organizations, respect the Constitution and are willing to join in building a peaceful Afghanistan, and as further elaborated in the principles and outcomes of the Bonn Conference Conclusions, and encourages the Government of Afghanistan to make use of UNAMA's good offices to support this process as appropriate, in full respect of the implementation of measures and procedures introduced by the relevant Security Council resolutions;

11. *Stresses* the role of UNAMA in supporting, if requested by and in close consultation with the Government of Afghanistan, an inclusive Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process, while continuing to assess, including in collaboration with the AIHRC, the impact of the aforementioned peace process, with reference to the relevant parameters set out in the Kabul Conference Communique' and the Bonn Conference Conclusions, and encourages the international community to assist the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in this regard;

12. *Calls on* all regional and international partners of Afghanistan to continue efforts to support peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan, through the Kabul Process for Peace and Security, initiated on 6 June 2017 in Kabul under the leadership of the Government of Afghanistan, working toward holding early, direct talks between the Government of Afghanistan and authorized representatives of Taliban groups, and welcomes ongoing international efforts to advance peace and stability in Afghanistan;

13. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Peace and Reconciliation presented by the High Peace Council of Afghanistan, calls for its effective implementation, emphasizes that the peace agreement signed between the Government of Afghanistan and the High Peace Council with Hezb-e-Islami (HIG) of 29 September 2016 is an important development in the Government's overall peace efforts and calls for its effective implementation;

14. *Underscores* the importance of a sustainable democratic development in Afghanistan based on inclusive, transparent and credible elections, welcomes in that regard the forthcoming organization of parliamentary and district council elections in 2018 and presidential elections in 2019 in line with the relevant international conferences and the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan to deliver further improvements to the electoral process and emphasizes the importance of accelerated progress in this regard, and requests that, upon the request of the Government of Afghanistan, UNAMA provides assistance to the relevant Afghan institutions to support the integrity and inclusiveness of the electoral process, including measures to enable the full and safe participation of women, both as voters and candidates;

15. *Welcomes* the new Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF) setting out the strategic policy priorities of Afghanistan towards achieving Self-Reliance and the presentation of 5 new national priority programs, on a citizens' charter, women's economic empowerment, urban development, comprehensive agriculture and national infrastructure, to improve the conditions for advancing sustainable development and stability, and welcomes the international community's long-term support for Afghanistan on the basis of mutual accountability as stated in the SMAF, and underlines the crucial importance of continued and sequenced implementation of the reform agenda, national priority programs and the development and governance goals as agreed in the SMAF;

16. *Calls on* international donors and organizations and the Afghan Government to adhere to their commitments made at the Kabul, Bonn, Tokyo, London, and Brussels Conferences;

17. *Calls on* the United Nations, as well as the broader international community, to continue to support the Government of Afghanistan's reform agenda;

18. *Reaffirms* the central role played by the JCMB, in a manner consistent with Afghan leadership, ownership and sovereignty, in facilitating the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Government of Afghanistan's reform agenda, and calls upon all relevant actors to enhance their cooperation with the JCMB in this regard;

19. *Reiterates* the importance of increasing, in a comprehensive framework, the functionality, professionalism and accountability of the Afghan security sector in line with resolution 1325 (2000) and its successor resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, including 2242 (2015), through appropriate vetting procedures, women's equal and effective participation and full involvement in all stages of the security sector reform process, and training, including on women's and children's rights and their protection, in support of the implementation of Afghanistan's 1325 National Action Plan, and stresses the importance of the commitment by the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to ensure a capable, professional and sustainable Afghan National Defence and Security Force (ANDSF);

20. *Welcomes* in this context the continued progress in the development of the Afghan National Army and its improved ability to plan and undertake operations, and encourages sustained training efforts and assistance, including through the contribution of trainers, resources, advisory teams, advice in developing a sustainable defence planning process, and assistance in defence reform initiatives;

21. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Afghan authorities to enhance the capabilities of the Afghan National Police, calls for further efforts towards that goal, including the commitment by the Ministry of Interior and the Afghan National Police to develop an effective strategy for coordinating increased recruitment, retention, training and capacity development for women in the Afghan National Police, fully implement Afghanistan's 1325 National Action Plan, and further the implementation

of their gender integration strategy, stresses the importance of international assistance through financial support and provision of trainers and mentors, and notes the importance of a sufficient and capable police force for Afghanistan's long-term security;

22. *Reiterates* its concern about the security situation in Afghanistan, in particular the ongoing region based violence and attacks by the Taliban, including the Haqqani Network, as well as by Al-Qaida, ISIL (Da'esh) affiliates and other terrorist groups, violent and extremist groups, illegal armed groups, criminals, and foreign terrorist fighters, and calls upon all States in this regard to strengthen their international and regional security cooperation to enhance information-sharing, border control, law enforcement and criminal justice to better counter the threat posed, including from returning foreign terrorist fighters;

23. *Condemns* in the strongest terms all attacks, including improvised explosive device attacks, suicide attacks, assassinations and abductions, targeting civilians and Afghan and international forces and their deleterious effect on the stabilization, reconstruction and development efforts in Afghanistan, and condemns further the use by the Taliban, including the Haqqani Network as well as Al-Qaida, ISIL (Da'esh) affiliates, and by other terrorist groups, violent and extremist groups, and illegal armed groups of civilians as human shields, and underlines the need to hold perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of such acts accountable and bring them to justice, and urges all states, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with the Government of Afghanistan and all other relevant authorities in this regard;

24. *Strongly condemns* the continued flow of weapons, including small arms and light weapons (SALW), military equipment and IED components to the Taliban, including the Haqqani network, as well as by Al-Qaida, ISIL (Da'esh) affiliates and other terrorist groups, violent and extremist groups, illegal armed groups and criminals, and encourages Member States to share information, establish partnerships and develop national strategies and capabilities to counter IEDs;

25. *Further condemns* in the strongest terms all acts of violence against diplomatic and consular officials and other representatives of the international community in Afghanistan;

26. *Strongly condemns* the continued attacks against humanitarian and development workers, and urges all parties to the conflict to comply fully with international humanitarian law, and to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe, rapid, and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel, as well as the delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently perform their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

27. *Reiterates* that all parties to armed conflict must comply fully with the obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law to ensure the respect and protection of humanitarian personnel and medical personnel, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities;

28. *Reiterates* its support for the Government of Afghanistan, and in particular to the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF), in securing their country and in their fight against terrorism, including in relation to the nexus with transnational organized crime, and against violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, and calls upon the Afghan Government, with the assistance of the international community, to continue to address the threat to the security and stability

of Afghanistan posed by the Taliban, including the Haqqani Network, as well as by Al Qaida, ISIL (Da'esh) affiliates and other terrorist groups, violent and extremist groups, illegal armed groups, criminals and those involved in the production, trafficking or trade of illicit drugs;

29. *Stresses* that effective inter- and intra-agency cooperation by law enforcement and security agencies is a critical element of an effective counter-terrorism strategy, and encourages Afghanistan to further strengthen coordination, both among national law enforcement bodies and with counterparts in other States, recognizes the ongoing efforts by Afghanistan in creating a comprehensive and integrated national strategy to counter terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, and encourages Afghanistan, with the support of the international community, to further develop such a strategy as well as effective mechanisms for its implementation that include attention to the conditions conducive to terrorism in accordance with obligations of Afghanistan under international law, and recalls the recommendations and related technical assistance needs identified in the Report on the focused visit of the Counter-Terrorism Committee to Afghanistan;

30. *Encourages* the engagement of relevant local communities and non-governmental actors and the participation and leadership of women and women's organizations in developing strategies to counter terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, including through countering incitement to commit terrorist acts, creating counter narratives and other appropriate interventions, and building their capacity to do so effectively;

31. *Stresses* the importance of relevant national strategies for the prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of foreign terrorist fighters;

32. *Welcomes* the achievements to date in the implementation of the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan, notably the ratification of Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and encourages the Government of Afghanistan, with the support of the United Nations and all the relevant actors, to adopt an action plan for its effective implementation and to continue its efforts towards the removal and destruction of anti-personnel landmines, anti-tank landmines and explosive remnants of war and to provide assistance for the care, rehabilitation, and economic and social reintegration of victims;

33. *Notes concern over* the continued high levels of child casualties and recruitment and use of children in Afghanistan, in particular by terrorist and extremist groups, commends the Government of Afghanistan for introducing legislation banning the recruitment and use of children in its armed forces and for establishing local child protection units, and welcomes the progress made on the implementation of the action plan for the prevention of underage recruitment, stresses the need for protection of schools and hospitals, reiterates its strong condemnation of all violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict, and calls for those responsible to be brought to justice, and in this context, requests UNAMA to continue to support efforts to strengthen the protection of children affected by armed conflict, including engagement with the Afghan Government to fully implement the Action Plan and Road Map, and actions to promote accountability and address other violations and abuses, including sexual violence against children, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to give priority to the child protection activities and capacity of UNAMA and to include in his future reports the matter of children and armed conflict in the country in line with the relevant Security Council resolutions;

34. *Calls upon* States to strengthen their efforts as well as international and regional cooperation to counter the threat to the international community posed by the production, trafficking, and consumption of illicit drugs originating in

Afghanistan which significantly contribute to the financial resources of the Taliban and its associates and could also benefit Al-Qaida, ISIL (Da'esh) affiliates and other terrorist groups, and to act in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility in addressing the drug problem of Afghanistan, including through cooperation against the trafficking in illicit drugs and precursor chemicals, also underlining the importance of border management cooperation, emphasizes the need for enhanced regional and international support of Afghanistan's National Drug Action Plan (NDAP), and welcomes the continued efforts of the UNODC in empowering the Afghan Ministry of Counter Narcotics in its implementation, and appreciates the work of the Paris Pact initiative, its "Paris-Moscow" process and its partners, including the EU, NATO, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), as well as the work of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors (CARICC), and encourages the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) and the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) to continue to pay attention to the linkages between the proceeds of organized crime, inter alia, the illicit production and trafficking of drugs and their chemical precursors and the financing, respectively, of the Taliban, including the Haqqani Network, and of ISIL (also known as Da'esh), Al-Qaida, and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities;

35. *Reiterates* the importance of accelerating the establishment of a fair and transparent justice system, eliminating impunity and strengthening the rule of law throughout the country, stresses the importance of further progress in the reconstruction and reform of the prison sector in Afghanistan, in order to improve the respect for the rule of law and human rights therein, emphasizes the importance of ensuring access for relevant organizations, as applicable, to all prisons and places of detention in Afghanistan, welcomes the National Plan on the Elimination of Torture as well as the revised Penal Code and efforts of the Government of Afghanistan at taking steps to ensure consistency with Afghanistan's international obligations and commitments, emphasizes the need for full implementation of such efforts, calls upon the Government of Afghanistan to fulfil its expressed commitment to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and calls for full respect for relevant international law including humanitarian law and human rights law;

36. *Recognizes* the anti-corruption commitments by the Government of Afghanistan and welcomes in this regard the establishment of the High Council on Rule of Law, Governance, Justice and Anti-Corruption, the Anti-Corruption Justice Center and National Procurement Commission, and the adoption of the national anti-corruption strategy on 28 September, and calls for its effective implementation, encourages all Afghan institutions, including the executive and legislative branches, to tackle corruption and to ensure good governance, welcomes progress in this regard, and stresses the need for further national efforts to implement plans for addressing corruption as well as international efforts to provide technical assistance in this area;

37. *Calls for* full respect for and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law, throughout Afghanistan, and notes with concern the continued restrictions on freedom of media, including attacks against journalists by terrorist as well as extremist and criminal groups, as well as ongoing reports of threats against human rights defenders, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, religious figures as well as investigators, judges and prosecutors;

38. *Calls for* enhanced efforts to secure the rights of women and girls and to ensure that women and girls are protected from violence and abuse, including from

sexual- and gender-based violence, and that perpetrators of such violence and abuse are held accountable, and emphasizes the importance of ensuring equal protection under the law, equality before the courts in accordance with international law, and equal access to justice, including through measurable and action-oriented objectives and the integration of gender expertise, knowledge and capacity;

39. *Welcomes* the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan to empower women politically and economically, and reiterates in this regard the importance of increasing the full and effective participation and leadership of women in decision-making, including in peace talks and overall peacebuilding strategies at the national and subnational level, and calls on the Government of Afghanistan to fully implement and finance the 1325 National Action Plan, and encourages the Government of Afghanistan to identify further opportunities to support participation of women in the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process, and requests the support of UNAMA in this regard, and requests the Secretary General to continue to include in his reports to the Security Council relevant information on the process of integration of women into the political, economic and social life of Afghanistan and further calls upon members of the international community to provide assistance as appropriate;

40. *Reaffirms* its support to the ongoing Afghan-led regional efforts within the framework of the "Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan" and the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) Summits, and welcomes ongoing efforts to build trust and cooperation, including by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, SCO, including its Afghanistan contact group which met in Moscow on 11 October 2017, CSTO, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), and Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), as well as through the Moscow dialogue consultations, the Quadrilateral Coordination Group of Afghanistan, China, Pakistan and the United States of America, the Trilateral Summit of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, the Trilateral Summit of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey, the Trilateral Summit of Afghanistan, Pakistan and the UK, the China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Minister's Dialogue, and the Quadrilateral Cooperation and Coordination Mechanism (QCCM) in Counter Terrorism by Afghanistan, China, Pakistan and Tajikistan;

41. *Welcomes and urges* further efforts to strengthen the process of regional economic cooperation, including measures to facilitate regional connectivity, trade and transit, including through regional development initiatives such as the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road (the Belt and Road) Initiative, and regional development projects, such as the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project, the Central Asia South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade Project (CASA-1000), the Chabahar port project, agreed between Afghanistan, India and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Lapis Lazuli Transit, Trade and Transport Route agreement and the Turkmenistan-Aqina and Herat-Khawaf railway segments, and bilateral transit trade agreements, expanded consular visa cooperation and facilitation of business travel, to expand trade, increase foreign investments and develop infrastructure, including infrastructural connectivity, energy supply, transport and integrated border management, with a view to promoting sustainable economic growth and the creation of jobs in Afghanistan and the region, and in this regard urges all relevant stakeholders to ensure a secure environment, integrate their development policies and strategies and promote the practical connectivity cooperation for these development initiatives and trade agreements to be fully implemented;

42. *Recalls* that regional security cooperation plays a key role in maintaining stability in Afghanistan and the region, welcomes the progress achieved by Afghanistan and regional partners in this regard, and calls for further efforts by

Afghanistan and regional partners and organizations, to strengthen their partnership and cooperation, including to enhance the capabilities of the Afghan security forces and to enhance security in the region;

43. *Expresses* its concern over the continued high levels of internally displaced persons in and refugees from Afghanistan, strongly encourages intensified efforts by the Government of Afghanistan in ensuring the protection of all internally displaced persons in line with the Afghanistan national policy on Internally Displaced Persons and in making voluntary repatriation and reintegration of Afghan refugees in safe and dignified conditions among its highest national priorities, strongly supports the Government of Afghanistan's efforts to create the necessary conditions for the voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration of Afghan refugees in the country, and calls for continued and enhanced international assistance in this regard;

44. *Requests* that the Secretary-General reports to the Council every three months on developments in Afghanistan, and to include in his reports an evaluation of progress made against the benchmarks for measuring and tracking progress in the implementation of UNAMA's mandate, including at the subnational level, and priorities as set out in this resolution;

45. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/RES/2406 (2018)

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 March 2018

Resolution 2406 (2018)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 8204th meeting, on 15 March 2018

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions 1996 (2011), 2046 (2012), 2057 (2012), 2109 (2013), 2132 (2013), 2155 (2014), 2187 (2014), 2206 (2015), 2223 (2015), 2241 (2015), 2252 (2015), 2302 (2016), 2304 (2016), 2327 (2016), and 2392 (2017), and statements by its President S/PRST/2014/16, S/PRST/2014/26, S/PRST/2015/9, S/PRST/2016/1, S/PRST/2016/3, S/PRST/2017/4, and S/PRST/2017/25,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and national unity of the Republic of South Sudan, and *recalling* the importance of the principles of non-interference, good-neighbourliness, and regional cooperation,

Reiterating its increasingly grave alarm and concern regarding the political, security, economic, and humanitarian crisis in South Sudan, and subsequent violence caused by the country's political and military leaders since December 2013, and *emphasizing* there can be no military solution to the situation in South Sudan,

Expressing deep alarm over the increasing scope of the violence across the country, *strongly condemning* armed clashes and violence involving the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), SPLA-In Opposition (SPLA-IO), SPLA-IO (Taban), and armed groups, *further condemning* in the strongest terms the ongoing fighting in violation of the 21 December 2017 "Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians, and Humanitarian Access" (the ACOH), *welcoming* the rapid assessment of these violations by the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism (CTSAMM), and *encouraging* the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to share reports with the Security Council rapidly,

Deeply regretting that the parties have disregarded its Presidential Statements of 23 March 2017 and 14 December 2017, most notably the provisions on adhering to a permanent ceasefire and allowing the unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance to those in need, and *recalling* the 4 September 2016 Joint Communique by the Transitional Government of National Unity of South Sudan and United Nations Security Council Members and *regretting* its lack of implementation by the Government of South Sudan,

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Welcoming the commitment and efforts of IGAD, the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC), the African Union (AU), the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC), and the United Nations (UN) to continue engaging with South Sudanese leaders to address the current crisis, and *encouraging* their continued and proactive engagement,

Taking note of the 2015 "Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan" (the Agreement), IGAD-led High Level Revitalization Forum for the Agreement, and the ACOH, *calling on* South Sudanese parties to demonstrate the political will to peacefully resolve the conflict, and *stressing* that the IGAD High-Level Revitalization Forum is a unique window of opportunity, but equally a last chance for the parties to achieve sustainable peace and stability in South Sudan, and *noting* that timelines for the implementation schedule of the Agreement should be amended to reflect the need to create an environment conducive to post-transition elections,

Taking note of the communiqués of the 12 June 2017 31st Extraordinary Summit of the IGAD Assembly Heads of State and Government, the 20 September 2017 Ministerial of the African Union Peace and Security Council, the 60th Extraordinary Session of IGAD Council of Ministers on the Situation in South Sudan, and the 8 February 2018 African Union Peace and Security Council meeting on the Status on the Revitalization Process for the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan, as well as the 12 January Joint Statement by the Chairperson of the African Union and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the Situation in South Sudan and the 27 January 2018 AU, IGAD, and the UN Consultative Meeting on the Republic of South Sudan Joint Statement, and *further taking note* that the AU, IGAD, and the United Nations Security Council demanded that parties that violate the ACOH must be held accountable,

Recalling its 14 December 2017 Presidential Statement that there must be costs and consequences for those who undermine the High Level Revitalization Forum process and to that end, *further recalling* that individuals or entities responsible for or complicit in, or having engaged in, directly or indirectly, actions or policies that threaten the peace, security or stability of South Sudan, may be designated for targeted sanctions pursuant to resolution 2206 (2015), 2271 (2016), 2280 (2016), 2290 (2016), and 2353 (2017), including individuals who engage in attacks against United Nations missions, international security presences, or other peacekeeping operations, or humanitarian personnel and *recalling* its willingness to impose targeted sanctions,

Commending the work of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS), *and stressing* the importance of effective engagement and liaison with local communities, as well as humanitarian actors, including through regular communication about the UNMISS mandate, including its planned actions and capacities, security threats and related information, both within and outside the Protection of Civilians sites, in order to fulfil UNMISS's Protection of Civilians mandate,

Recognizing that unarmed civilian protection can often complement efforts to build a protective environment, particularly in the deterrence of sexual and gender-based violence against civilians, and *encouraging* UNMISS, as appropriate and when possible, to explore how it can use civilian protection techniques to enhance its ability to protect civilians,

Recognizing the dire humanitarian situation and high levels of food insecurity in many parts of the country, and in this regard *noting* the importance of UNMISS's contribution to creating through coordination with humanitarian actors, displaced communities, and authorities the conditions for the safe, voluntary, and dignified

return of IDPs and refugees, so that they may resume their livelihoods including the cultivation of land for food production,

Strongly condemning the continued obstruction of UNMISS by the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGNU) and opposition groups, including severe restrictions on freedom of movement, assault of UNMISS personnel, and constraints on mission operations, many of which were reported by the Secretary-General as violations of the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) by the TGNU,

Demanding that all parties, particularly the TGNU and the SPLA-IO, end all obstructions to UNMISS, including *inter alia* carrying out its mandate to monitor and investigate human rights,

Recalling its strong condemnation of all instances of attacks against civilians, including violence against women, children, and persons in vulnerable situations, ethnically targeted violence, hate speech, and incitements to violence, and *further expressing* deep concern at the possibility that what began as a political conflict could continue to transform into an outright ethnic war, as noted by the Special Advisor for the Prevention of Genocide Adama Dieng,

Strongly condemning all human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, including those involving extrajudicial killings, ethnically targeted violence, rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, recruitment and use of children, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detention, violence aimed at spreading terror among the civilian population, targeting of members of civil society, and attacks on schools, places of worship, hospitals, medical facilities and transport, United Nations and associated personnel, and humanitarian personnel, by all parties, including armed groups and national security forces, as well as the incitement to commit such abuses and violations, *further condemning* harassment, targeting, and censorship of civil society, humanitarian personnel and journalists and *emphasizing* that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights must be held accountable, and that South Sudan's TGNU bears the primary responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity,

Taking note of the UNMISS and Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights report on the Freedom of Expression in South Sudan, *condemning* the use of media to broadcast hate speech and transmit messages instigating violence against a particular ethnic group, a practice that has the potential to play a significant role in promoting mass violence and exacerbating conflict, and *calling* on the Government of South Sudan to immediately condemn and counter increasing hate speech and ethnic violence and to promote reconciliation among its people, including through a process of justice and accountability,

Expressing grave concern at the findings of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict of the systematic and widespread use of sexual violence as a tactic by parties to the conflict against the civilian population, particularly against women and girls in South Sudan,

Stressing the urgent need to end impunity in South Sudan and to hold accountable and bring to justice all perpetrators for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights, and *further stressing* the importance of accountability, reconciliation and healing in ending impunity and ensuring a sustainable peace, and in this regard, sharing the concern of the AUPSC about the delays in establishing the Hybrid Court for South Sudan,

Taking note with interest of the reports on the human rights situation in South Sudan issued by UNMISS and the Secretary-General, as well as the report of the AU

Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan and the Separate Opinion, *expressing* grave concern that according to some reports, including the AU Commission of Inquiry report on South Sudan, released on 27 October 2015, there were reasonable grounds to believe that war crimes and crimes against humanity had been committed and the report of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, released on 23 February 2018 that war crimes and crimes against humanity may have been committed, *emphasizing its hope* that these and other credible reporting will be duly considered by any transitional justice and reconciliation mechanisms for South Sudan including those established in the Agreement, *stressing* the importance of collection and preservation of evidence for eventual use by the Hybrid Court for South Sudan, and *encouraging* efforts in this regard,

Expressing serious and urgent concern over the more than four million displaced persons and deepening humanitarian crisis, including an estimated 5.3 million that face severe food insecurity according to the January 2018 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification report, which reflects a 40 percent increase from January 2017, and seven million in need of life-saving assistance, and that half of the country's children are out of school, *stressing* the responsibility borne by all parties to the conflict for the immense suffering of the people of South Sudan, including the destruction or damage to livelihoods and productive assets, *commending* United Nations humanitarian agencies, partners, and donors for their efforts to provide urgent and coordinated support to the population, and calling upon the international community to continue these efforts to meet the growing humanitarian needs of the people of South Sudan,

Condemning the obstructions by all parties to civilians' movement and to humanitarian actors' movement to reach civilians in need of assistance, *expressing concern* at the increasing ad hoc legislation, new taxes, and permits which are hampering the delivery of humanitarian assistance across the country, and *recalling the need for* all parties to the conflict to allow and facilitate, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law and United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, including humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence, the full, safe and unhindered access of relief personnel, equipment and supplies and timely delivery of humanitarian assistance, to all those in need, in particular to internally displaced persons (IDPs), and refugees,

Condemning all attacks against humanitarian personnel and facilities that resulted in the deaths of at least 98 personnel since December 2013, including the attack on the Terrain compound on 11 July 2016 and attacks against medical personnel and hospitals, *noting with alarm* the increasing trend of harassment and intimidation of humanitarian personnel, and *recalling* that attacks against humanitarian personnel and objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population may amount to violations of international humanitarian law,

Expressing its deep appreciation for the actions taken by UNMISS peacekeepers and Troop- and Police-Contributing Countries in implementing the UNMISS mandate in a challenging environment, including in protecting civilians, including foreign nationals, under threat of physical violence and to stabilize the security situation within and beyond UNMISS sites, and *stressing* that any national caveat that negatively affects the implementation of mandate effectiveness should not be accepted by the Secretary-General, and *further highlighting* that lack of effective command and control, refusal to obey orders, failure to respond to attacks on civilians, inadequate equipment, and financial resources may adversely affect the shared responsibility for effective mandate implementation,

Welcoming the commitment of the Secretary-General to enforce strictly his zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, *noting* the various measures taken

by UNMISS and Troop- and Police-contributing countries to combat sexual exploitation and abuse, but still *expressing grave concern* over recent allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse reportedly committed by peacekeepers in South Sudan, *stressing* the urgent need for Troop- and Police-contributing countries and, as appropriate, UNMISS, to promptly investigate those allegations in a credible and transparent manner and for those responsible for such criminal offences or misconduct to be held to account, and *further stressing* the need to prevent such exploitation and abuse and to improve how these allegations are addressed in line with resolution 2272 (2016),

Recognizing the significant resource and capacity challenges UNMISS faces in implementing its mandate, *expressing appreciation* for UNMISS's ongoing efforts to ensure the safety of IDPs seeking protection on its sites, while *recognizing* the importance of finding sustainable solutions for IDPs in keeping with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, and *underlining* in this regard the need to extend its presence, including through proactive deployment and patrolling, to areas of displacement, return, and local integration,

Emphasizing that persistent barriers to full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), and subsequent resolutions on women, peace, and security including 2242 (2015), will only be dismantled through dedicated commitment to women's empowerment, participation, and human rights, concerted leadership, consistent information and action, and support, to build women's engagement in all levels of decision-making, and through ensuring that the full and effective participation and involvement of women in all spheres and levels of the political and peace process,

Expressing grave concern regarding the threats made to oil installations, petroleum companies and their employees, and urging all parties to ensure the security of economic infrastructure, *condemning* attacks on oil installations, petroleum companies and their employees, and any fighting around these facilities, and *urging* all parties to ensure the security of economic infrastructure,

Recalling its resolution 2117 (2013) and *expressing grave concern* at the threat to peace and security in South Sudan arising from the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons,

Strongly condemning the attacks by government and opposition forces and other groups on United Nations and IGAD personnel and facilities, including the December 2012 downing of a United Nations helicopter by the SPLA, the April 2013 attack on a United Nations convoy, the December 2013 attack on the UNMISS camp in Akobo, the August 2014 shooting down of a United Nations helicopter by unidentified armed groups, the August 2014 arrest and detention of an IGAD monitoring and verification team, the October 2015 seizure and detention of UNMISS personnel and equipment in Upper Nile State by opposition forces, the February 2016 attack on the Malakal protection of civilians site, the July 2016 attack on the Juba protection of civilians site, and the Terrain Compound attack, the detention and kidnappings of United Nations and associated personnel, the repeated attacks on the UNMISS camps in Bor, Bentiu, Malakal and Melut, and the disappearance purportedly caused by SPLA forces, and deaths of three United Nations-affiliated national staff and one national contractor in Upper Nile State, and *calling upon* the Government of South Sudan to complete its investigations of these attacks in a swift and thorough manner and to hold those responsible to account,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 2304 (2016) paragraphs 16 and 18, and of resolution 2327 (2016) paragraphs 31 and 32, and the recommendations contained therein,

Determining that the situation in South Sudan continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Demands* that all parties immediately end the fighting throughout South Sudan, and *further demands that* South Sudan's leaders implement the permanent ceasefire declared in the Agreement and ceasefires for which they respectively called on 11 July 2016 and 22 May 2017, as well as the ACOH signed on 21 December 2017, and ensure that subsequent decrees and orders directing their commanders control their forces and protect civilians and their property are fully implemented;

2. *Demands* that the TGNU of South Sudan comply with the obligations set out in the SOFA between the Government of South Sudan and the United Nations, and immediately cease obstructing UNMISS in the performance of its mandate, and *further demands* the TGNU immediately cease obstructing international and national humanitarian actors from assisting civilians, and facilitate freedom of movement for the CTSAMM and *calls on* the TGNU to take action, to deter, and to hold those responsible to account for any hostile or other actions that impede UNMISS or international and national humanitarian actors;

3. *Expresses its intention* to consider all appropriate measures, as demonstrated by adoption of resolutions 2206 (2015), 2290 (2016), and 2353 (2017) against those who take actions that undermine the peace, stability, and security of South Sudan, *stresses* the sanctity of United Nations protection sites, *specifically underscores* that individuals or entities that are responsible or complicit in, or have engaged in, directly or indirectly, attacks against UNMISS personnel and premises and any humanitarian personnel, may meet the designation criteria, and in this regard *takes note* of the 20 February 2018 Special Report of the Secretary-General on the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (S/2018/143) that the steady re-supply of weapons and ammunition to South Sudan has directly affected the safety of UN personnel and UNMISS's ability to carry out its mandate, *takes note* of the AUPSC's 8 February 2018 communique which states that signatories to the ACOH should be deprived of the means to continue fighting, and *further expresses its intention* to consider all measures, including an arms embargo, as appropriate, to deprive the parties of the means to continue fighting and to prevent violations of the ACOH;

4. *Commends* the 18 October 2017 report by JMEC Chairperson Festus Mogae on the Status of Implementation of the Agreement for the period November 2015 to September 2017, *condemns* the lack of progress in implementing key provisions of the Agreement, especially those related to the permanent ceasefire, *underscores* that without a ceasefire and a fully inclusive peace process the implementation of certain other provisions of the Agreement, including constitution-making and post-transition elections, should not take place, notes the importance of the full and effective participation of youth, women, diverse communities, faith groups, and civil society in the peace process, and *calls upon* all parties to ensure women's full and effective representation and leadership in all conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts;

5. *Decides* to extend the mandate of UNMISS until 15 March 2019;

6. *Decides* to maintain the overall force levels of UNMISS with a troop ceiling of 17,000 troops, which includes a Regional Protection Force at levels to be set by the Secretary-General but not to exceed 4,000, and maintaining the police ceiling of 2,101 police personnel, including individual police officers, formed police units and 78 corrections officers, *requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to expedite force and asset generation, *further takes note* with interest of the

Secretary-General's intention to conduct a military and police capability study, and *expresses* its readiness to consider making the necessary adjustments on this basis to UNMISS including its Regional Protection Force;

7. *Decides* that the mandate of UNMISS shall be as follows, and *authorizes* UNMISS to use all necessary means to perform the following tasks:

(a) *Protection of civilians*:

(i) To protect civilians under threat of physical violence, irrespective of the source of such violence, within its capacity and areas of deployment, with specific protection for women and children, including through the continued use of the Mission's Child Protection and Women Protection Advisers;

(ii) To deter violence against civilians, including foreign nationals, especially through proactive deployment, active patrolling with particular attention to IDPs, including, but not limited to, those in protection sites and refugee camps, humanitarian personnel and human rights defenders, and identification of threats and attacks against civilians, including through regular interaction with civilians and working closely with humanitarian, human rights and development organizations, in areas at high risk of conflict including, as appropriate, schools, places of worship, hospitals, and the oil installations, in particular when the Government of the Republic of South Sudan is unable or failing to provide such security;

(iii) To implement a mission-wide early warning strategy, including a coordinated approach to information gathering, monitoring, verification, early warning and dissemination, and response mechanisms, including response mechanisms to threats and attacks against civilians that may involve violations and abuses of human rights or violations of international humanitarian law, as well as to prepare for further potential attacks on United Nations personnel and facilities;

(iv) To maintain public safety and security of and within UNMISS protection of civilians sites;

(v) To deter and prevent sexual and gender-based violence within its capacity and areas of deployment, as highlighted in paragraph 41 of the Special Report of the Secretary-General of 10 November 2016 (S/2016/951);

(vi) To exercise good offices, confidence-building, and facilitation in support of the mission's protection strategy, especially in regard to women and children, including to facilitate the prevention, mitigation, and resolution of inter-communal conflict [through, *inter alia*, mediation] in order to foster sustainable local and national reconciliation as an essential part of preventing violence and long-term State-building activity;

(vii) To foster a secure environment for the eventual safe, voluntary, and dignified, return of IDPs and refugees including through monitoring of, ensuring respect for human rights by, and where compatible and in strict compliance with the United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP), coordination with police services, security and government institutions, and civil society actors in relevant and protection-focused activities, such as sensitization to issues of sexual and gender-based violence and children and armed conflict as well as technical assistance or advice, within existing resources, on international humanitarian law, investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence, as well as other serious human rights violations, in order to strengthen protection of civilians;

(b) *Creating the conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance*:

(i) To contribute, in close coordination with humanitarian actors, to the creation of security conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance, so as to allow, the rapid, safe and unhindered access of relief personnel to all those in need in South Sudan and timely delivery of humanitarian assistance, in particular to IDPs and refugees, *recalling* the need for compliance with the relevant provisions of international law and respect for the UN guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, including humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence;

(ii) To ensure the security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel where appropriate, and to ensure the security of its installations and equipment necessary for implementation of mandated tasks;

(c) *Monitoring, and investigating human rights*:

(i) To monitor, investigate, verify, and report immediately, publicly, and regularly on abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including those that may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity;

(ii) To monitor, investigate, verify and report specifically and publicly on violations and abuses committed against children and women, including those involving all forms of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict by accelerating the implementation of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence and by strengthening the monitoring and reporting mechanism for violations and abuses against children;

(iii) To monitor, investigate and report on incidents of hate speech and incitement to violence in cooperation with the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide;

(iv) To coordinate with, share appropriate information with, and provide technical support to international, regional, and national mechanisms engaged in monitoring, investigating, and reporting violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses, including those that may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity, as appropriate;

(d) *Supporting the Implementation of the Agreement and the Peace Process*:

To carry out, within its capabilities, the following tasks in support of the implementation of the Agreement and peace process:

(i) Using good offices to support the peace process, in particular the High Level Revitalization Forum for the Agreement;

(ii) Participating in and supporting the CTSAMM in implementation of its ceasefire monitoring and verification mandate, including through facilitating and supporting the CTSAMM in its implementation of monitoring and reporting of violations and overall effectiveness in identifying those responsible for these violations;

(iii) Actively participating in and supporting the work of the JMEC;

8. *Stresses* that the peace process only remains viable with the full commitment by all parties, *urges* all the parties to participate in the peace process in good faith in order to reach the compromises necessary for the peace and stability of South Sudan, *reminds* the parties that UNMISS shall only undertake those tasks related to the peace process as described in paragraph 7 (d); and *notes its intention* to

keep the tasks and composition of UNMISS under active review, based on the possible outcomes of the High Level Revitalization Forum;

9. To advance in cooperation with the TGNU the safety and security of the people of South Sudan and to create an enabling environment for implementation of the Agreement, *decides* that UNMISS shall continue to include a Regional Protection Force (RPF), *recalls* that per 2304 (2016) the RPF has the responsibility of providing a secure environment in and around Juba and in other parts of South Sudan as necessary, and *authorizes* the RPF to use all necessary means, including undertaking robust action where necessary and actively patrolling, to accomplish the RPF mandate, to:

(i) Facilitate the conditions for safe and free movement into, out of, and around Juba, including through protecting the means of ingress and egress from the city and major lines of communication and transport within Juba;

(ii) Protect the airport to ensure the airport remains operational, and protect key facilities in Juba essential to the well-being of the people of Juba, as identified by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General;

(iii) Promptly and effectively engage any actor that is credibly found to be preparing attacks, or engages in attacks, against United Nations protection of civilians sites, other United Nations premises, United Nations personnel, international and national humanitarian actors, or civilians;

10. *Affirms the* critical importance of the ability of UNMISS to use all of its bases without restrictions in order to execute its mandate including, but not limited to, its base in Tomping and in this regard, *calls on* the Government of South Sudan to uphold its obligations to guarantee UNMISS unimpeded access to United Nations premises per the SOFA;

11. *Recalls* its resolution 2086 (2013) and *reaffirms* the basic principles of peacekeeping, as set forth in Presidential Statement S/PRST/2015/22, including consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force, except in self-defence and defence of the mandate, *recognizes* that the mandate of each peacekeeping mission is specific to the need and situation of the country concerned, and that the Security Council expects full delivery of the mandates it authorizes;

12. *Emphasizes* that protection of civilians must be given priority in decisions about the use of available capacity and resources within the mission, *stresses* that UNMISS's mandate as set out in paragraphs 7 and 9 above includes authority to use all necessary means to protect United Nations personnel, installations and equipment to deter violence especially through proactive deployment and active patrolling including through regular interaction with civilians, to protect civilians from threats, regardless of source, to create conditions conducive to delivery of humanitarian assistance by international and national actors, and support implementation of the Agreement and peace process, and *stresses* that such actions include, but are not limited to, within UNMISS's capacity and areas of deployment, defending protection of civilians sites, establishing areas around the sites that are not used for hostile purposes by any forces, including by extending weapons free zones to UNMISS protection of civilians sites where appropriate, addressing threats to the sites, searching individuals attempting to enter the sites, and seizing weapons from those inside or attempting to enter the sites, removing from and denying entry of armed actors to the protection of civilians sites, and *welcomes* in this regard the intention of the Secretary-General to conduct a military and police capability study, as expressed in paragraph 52 of (S/2018/143), noting the relevance of reviewing the current model for providing security to the POC sites;

13. *Requests* and *encourages* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to direct the operations of an integrated UNMISS and coordinate all activities of the United Nations system in the Republic of South Sudan, and to exercise his or her good offices to lead the UN system in South Sudan in assisting the JMEC, the AU, IGAD and other actors, as well as the parties, with implementation of the Agreement and to promote peace and reconciliation, *underscores* in this regard the critical role of CTSAMM as well as the importance of the support provided to it by UNMISS in delivering on its mandate, and *reaffirms* in this regard the critical role that the UN plays, in coordination with regional organizations and other actors, to advance political dialogue between parties and contribute to achieving an enduring cessation of hostilities and lead the parties to an inclusive peace process;

14. *Requests* UNMISS to take fully into account gender considerations as a crosscutting issue throughout its mandate, reaffirms the importance of appropriate gender expertise and training in all missions mandated by the Security Council, and further encourages Troop- and Police-contributing Countries to take measures to increase the deployment of women in the military, police, and civilian components of the Mission;

15. *Requests* UNMISS to continue to intensify its presence and active patrolling in areas of high risk of conflict, high concentrations of IDPs and refugees, including as guided by its early warning strategy, in all areas, and key routes for population movement, to extend its presence, including through proactive deployment and patrolling, to areas of displacement, return, resettlement, and reintegration, in order to foster a secure environment for the eventual safe and voluntary return of IDPs and refugees, and to conduct regular reviews of its geographic deployment to ensure that its forces are best placed to fulfil its mandate;

16. *Recognizes* that the effective implementation of UNMISS mandate is the responsibility of all stakeholders and is contingent upon several critical factors, including well defined, realistic, and achievable mandates; political will, leadership, performance and accountability at all levels; adequate resources; policy, planning and operational guidelines and training; *further recognizes* that measuring and monitoring peacekeeping performance should be based on comprehensive and objective methodologies based on clear and well defined benchmarks; in this regard, and *welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by the Secretary-General to standardize a culture of performance in UN peacekeeping that operationalizes the Operational Readiness Assurance Policy, and conduct mission performance reviews of uniformed and civilian personnel, leverages the Peacekeeping Capabilities and Readiness System (PCRS) to ensure performance data informs decisions regarding peacekeepers deployment, and *calls on* him to continue his efforts in this regard;

17. *Recalls* its Presidential Statement S/PRST/2015/22 and its resolution 2272 (2016) and *requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to ensure full compliance of UNMISS with the United Nations zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure that all personnel of the mission are vetted for history of sexual misconduct in the service with the United Nations and to keep it informed through his reports about UNMISS's progress in this regard, and *urges* troop- and police-contributing countries to take appropriate preventative action including predeployment awareness training, and to promote full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;

18. *Requests* UNMISS to ensure that any support provided to non-United Nations security forces is provided in strict compliance with the HRDDP on United Nations Support to non-United Nations security forces;

19. *Requests* UNMISS to assist the Committee, within existing resources, established pursuant to paragraph 16 of resolution 2206 (2015) and the Panel of

Experts established by the same resolution, *further urges* all parties and Member States, as well as international, regional and subregional organizations to ensure cooperation with the Panel of Experts and further urges all Member States involved to ensure the safety of the members of the Panel of Experts and unhindered access, in particular to persons, documents and sites in order for the Panel of Experts to execute its mandate;

20. *Condemns* in the strongest terms attacks on and threats made to UNMISS personnel and United Nations facilities, as well as those of IGAD, *stresses* that such attacks may constitute violations of the SOFA and/or war crimes, *demands* that all parties respect the inviolability of United Nations premises and immediately desist and refrain from any violence against those gathered at United Nations facilities, *reiterates* that the TGNU is bound by the terms of the SOFA, and *further demands* the immediate and safe release of detained and kidnapped United Nations and associated personnel;

21. *Condemns* the clash that took place in Malakal in February 2016 and the fighting in Juba in July 2016, and *urges* the UN to continuously incorporate lessons learned to conduct reforms across UNMISS to better enable it to implement its mandate, in particular regarding the protection of civilians, and to improve UNMISS chain of command, increase the effectiveness of UNMISS operations, strengthen safety and security of personnel, and enhance UNMISS' ability to manage complex situations;

22. *Reiterates its request* that UNMISS continue to take measures, as appropriate, to ensure the security of its air operations in South Sudan and report thereon to the Council;

23. *Condemns* in the strongest terms attacks on and looting of humanitarian aid, including food and medicine, and premises, including hospitals and medical facilities and warehouses, and *demands* that all parties allow, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law and United Nations guiding principles of emergency humanitarian assistance, including humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence, the rapid, safe and unhindered access of relief personnel, equipment and supplies, and timely delivery of humanitarian assistance, to all those in need throughout South Sudan in particular to IDPs and refugees, *stresses* the obligation to respect and protect all medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, *stresses* also that any returns or other durable solutions for IDPs or refugees must be undertaken on a voluntary and informed basis in conditions of dignity and safety, and notes that freedom of movement of civilians and their right to seek asylum should be respected;

24. *Further demands* that all parties immediately cease all forms of violence, human rights violations and abuses, violations of international humanitarian law, including rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, and hold perpetrators accountable, in order to break the prevailing cycle of impunity;

25. *Condemns* all violations of applicable international law, including international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of international human rights committed by all parties to the conflict, in particular against children, *strongly urges* all parties to the conflict to implement the actions called for in The Conclusions on Children and Armed Conflict in South Sudan adopted by the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict on 8 May 2015, including the immediate release of all children in their ranks, *welcomes* the recent release of children by some groups, *calls on* all armed groups to swiftly release other children in their ranks, *strongly urges* the Government of South Sudan to fully and immediately implement all provisions to the recommitment agreement to the revised action plan

to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict and other violations, signed with the UN on 24 June 2014, and *further strongly urges* the SPLA-IO to fully and immediately implement its action plan to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children and the killing and maiming of children signed with the UN on 7 January 2016, and *underlines* the importance of the Government of South Sudan providing timely and appropriate reintegration and rehabilitation assistance to children affected by armed conflict, while ensuring that the specific needs of girls as well as children with disabilities are addressed, including access to health care, psychosocial support, and education programmes that contribute to the well-being of children and to sustainable peace and security, and *calls on* the international community to assist these efforts;

26. *Strongly urges* the SPLA, SPLA-IO, and other armed groups to prevent further commission of sexual violence, *urges* the TGNU and the SPLA/IO to implement the joint and unilateral commitments and action plans they have made on preventing conflict-related sexual violence with focus on prevention, accountability, and enhancing assistance to victims, and *strongly urges* SPLA leadership to issue specific command orders regarding prevention of conflict-related sexual violence, and *demands* the TGNU show concrete steps to hold perpetrators within their ranks accountable for crimes of sexual violence;

27. *Underscores* that truth-seeking and reconciliation is essential for achieving peace in South Sudan and in this regard *stresses* that the Commission of Truth, Reconciliation and Healing, as stipulated in the Agreement, is a critical part of the peacebuilding process in South Sudan, to spearhead efforts to achieve national cohesion, promote peace, national reconciliation and healing;

28. *Takes note* of the steps taken by the African Union towards the setting up of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan as provided for under Chapter V of the Agreement, as well as the work done to date by the UN, *welcomes* the African Union's formal invitation for the UN to provide technical assistance towards the setting up of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan, and *requests* the Secretary-General to continue to make available technical assistance to the Commission of the African Union and to the TGNU in setting up the Hybrid Court for South Sudan and for the implementation of other aspects of Chapter V of the Agreement, including with regard to the establishment of the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation, and Healing;

29. *Takes note* of the 8 February 2018 African Union Peace and Security Council communique and in this regard *calls upon* the Government of South Sudan to sign without further delay the Memorandum of Understanding with the African Union to establish the Hybrid Court for South Sudan, and *further calls* on the international community to extend support to establishing the Hybrid Court for South Sudan;

30. Further *calls upon* the Government of South Sudan to move forward expeditiously and transparently to complete the ongoing investigations of allegations of human rights violations and abuses in a manner consistent with its international obligations, and *encourages* it to release the reports of those investigations;

31. *Further calls upon* the Government of South Sudan, while taking note of paragraph 3.2.2 of Chapter V of the Agreement, to hold to account all those responsible for violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, and to ensure that all victims of sexual violence have equal protection under the law and equal access to justice, and to safeguard equal respect for the rights of women and girls in these processes, and *notes* that implementing holistic transitional justice measures, including accountability, truth-seeking and reparations, are key to healing and reconciliation;

Reports

32. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to report violations of the SOFA or obstructions to UNMISS on a monthly basis;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council on implementation of the UNMISS mandate and the obstructions UNMISS encounters in doing so in a same comprehensive written report to be submitted within 90 days of the date of adoption of this resolution, every 90 days thereafter, and *underscores* that such reporting should include:

- reporting on progress in implementing the HRDDP,
- specific and detailed reporting on how UNMISS is working toward fulfilling its protection of civilian duties, including but not limited to troop responsiveness and performance and new patrol areas and proactive deployment,
- the consideration of gender as cross cutting throughout the mandate,
- the participation of women in peace processes,
- the steps taken to enhance the safety and security of UN personnel,
- the steps that have been taken to address performance concerns reflected in the reviews outlined in paragraph 16,
- strengthened reporting on human rights issues in South Sudan, and
- recommendations on the steps to adapt UNMISS to the situation on the ground;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report, through his regular 90-day reports, on the technical assistance provided consistent with paragraph 28 above, *invites* the African Union to share information on progress made in the establishment of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan, with the Secretary-General to inform his report, and *expresses* the Security Council's intention upon receipt of the Secretary-General's reports to assess the work that has been done in the establishment of the Hybrid Court in line with international standards;

35. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

United Nations S/RES/2407 (2018)

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 March 2018

Resolution 2407 (2018)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 8210th meeting, on 21 March 2018

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions, including resolutions 825 (1993), 1540 (2004), 1695 (2006), 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009), 1887 (2009), 1928 (2010), 1985 (2011), 2050 (2012), 2087 (2013), 2094 (2013), 2141 (2014), 2207 (2015), 2270 (2016), 2276 (2016), 2321 (2016), 2345 (2017), 2356 (2017), 2371 (2017), 2375 (2017), 2397 (2017), as well as the statements of its President of 6 October 2006 (S/PRST/2006/41), 13 April 2009 (S/PRST/2009/7), 16 April 2012 (S/PRST/2012/13), and 29 August 2017 (S/PRST/2017/16),

Recalling the creation, pursuant to paragraph 26 of resolution 1874 (2009), of a Panel of Experts, under the direction of the Committee, to carry out the tasks provided for by that paragraph,

Recalling the interim report by the Panel of Experts appointed by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 26 of resolution 1874 (2009) and the 27 February 2017 final report (S/2017/150) by the Panel,

Recalling the methodological standards for reports of sanctions monitoring mechanisms contained in the Report of the Informal Working Group of the Security Council on General Issues of Sanctions (S/2006/997),

Welcoming the efforts made by the Secretariat to expand and improve the roster of experts for the Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch, bearing in mind the guidance provided by the Note of the President (S/2006/997),

Emphasizing, in that regard, the importance of credible, fact-based, independent assessments, analysis, and recommendations, in accordance with the mandate of the Panel of Experts, as specified in paragraph 26 of resolution 1874 (2009),

Determining that proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Article 41 of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to extend until 24 April 2019 the mandate of the Panel of Experts, as specified in paragraph 26 of resolution 1874 (2009) and modified in paragraph 29 of resolution 2094 (2013), decides that this mandate shall apply also with respect to the measures imposed in resolutions 2270 (2016), 2321 (2016), 2356 (2017),

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2371 (2017), 2375 (2017), and 2397 (2017), expresses its intent to review the mandate and take appropriate action regarding further extension no later than 24 March 2019, and *requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary administrative measures to this effect;

2. *Requests* the Panel of Experts to provide to the Committee no later than 3 August 2018 a midterm report on its work, as requested in paragraph 43 of resolution 2321 (2016), and further requests that, after a discussion with the Committee, the Panel of Experts submit to the Council its midterm report by 7 September 2018, and requests also a final report to the Committee no later than 1 February 2019 with its findings and recommendations, and *further requests* that, after a discussion with the Committee, the Panel of Experts submit to the Council its final report no later than 14 March 2019;

3. *Requests* the Panel of Experts to provide to the Committee a planned program of work no later than thirty days after the Panel's reappointment, *encourages* the Committee to engage in regular discussions about this program of work and to engage regularly with the Panel about its work, and further *requests* the Panel of Experts to provide to the Committee any updates to this program of work;

4. *Expresses* its intent to continue to follow the work of the Panel;

5. *Urges* all States, relevant United Nations bodies and other interested parties, to cooperate fully with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) and the Panel of Experts, in particular by supplying any information at their disposal on the implementation of the measures imposed by resolutions 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009), 2087 (2013), 2094 (2013), 2270 (2016), 2321 (2016), 2356 (2017), 2371 (2017), 2375 (2017), and 2397 (2017);

6. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/RES/2408 (2018)

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 March 2018

Resolution 2408 (2018)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 8215th meeting, on 27 March 2018

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and statements of its President on the situation in Somalia,

Reaffirming its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, and unity of Somalia, and underscoring the importance of working to prevent destabilizing effects of regional crises and disputes from spilling over into Somalia,

Strongly condemning recent attacks by the terrorist group Al-Shabaab including the terrorist attack of 14 October 2017, which targeted civilians in Mogadishu killing in excess of 500 people, and the attacks of 23 February 2018, expressing serious concern at the ongoing threat posed by Al-Shabaab, as well as the presence of affiliates linked to Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, and reiterating its determination to support efforts, including through a comprehensive approach, to reduce the threat posed by Al-Shabaab in Somalia, in accordance with applicable international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law,

Paying tribute to the bravery and sacrifices made by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Somali security forces in the fight against Al-Shabaab, *commending* AMISOM and the Somalia security forces for the provision of security and *recognising* that security provided by AMISOM remains critical at this stage,

Commending the role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) in supporting peace and reconciliation, conflict resolution, the state formation process, the electoral process, the National Security Architecture implementation, a realistic conditions-based transition plan (Transition Plan) with clear target dates, and the promotion and protection of human rights and compliance with international humanitarian law in Somalia,

Expressing its full support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNSOM, Michael Keating, and the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia and the Head of AMISOM, Francisco Caetano José Madeira,

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Welcoming the progress made since the election of President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmaajo on 8 February 2017, including the swift appointment of a Government, the increased representation of women in Parliament and Government, commitment to economic reforms including those needed to support re-engagement with the International Financial Institutions, formal approval of the drafting of a National Development Plan and the mobilisation of a coordination architecture to support its implementation, agreement on the National Security Architecture, development of a Transition Plan, and the political roadmap,

Underscoring the need to maintain momentum towards consolidating Somalia's federal system in this regard, *welcoming* the commitments of the Federal Government of Somalia to one person, one vote elections in 2020/2021, *underscoring* the importance of making progress on the political roadmap, agreement on revenue collection and resource sharing, the new policing model, the justice and correction model and formalising the status of the Federal Member States as soon as possible, and *further welcoming* the commitment of the Federal Government of Somalia and Federal Member States as set out in the 5 November 2017 consultative meeting to reach an agreement on outstanding constitutional issues in close consultation with the Parliament within six months,

Welcoming the commitment of the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States to pursue inclusive political dialogue to support the peaceful resolution of disputes that threaten internal peace and security including the recent efforts in Gaalkacyo, Marka and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)-led reconciliation agreement between the Galmudug administration with Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a (ASWJ) that confirmed Dhusamareb as the administrative capital of Galmudug, and *expressing concern* over continuing tension between "Somaliland" and Puntland in Sool and Sanaag,

Underlining that a capable, accountable, acceptable and affordable security sector, with full respect for human rights and the rule of law, is a crucial part of long-term peace in Somalia, *noting* that progress in improving Somalia's security needs to be accelerated and prioritized, and *stressing* the importance of stabilisation activities, development, and political and economic reforms to a comprehensive approach to security,

Welcoming in this regard agreement on the Somalia National Security Architecture endorsed by the National Security Council on 8 May 2017, the Security Pact adopted by the Federal Government of Somalia, Federal Member States and all international partners attending the London Somalia Conference on 11 May 2017, consistent with the transition of the primary responsibility for security to the Somali Security Forces, and the renewed commitment of the Federal Government and Federal Member States at the Somalia Security Conference on 4 December 2017,

Welcoming the Federal Government of Somalia's development of a Transition Plan with clear target dates, geographical priorities and the operational readiness assessment, with a view to conducting a conditions-based, gradual handover of security from AMISOM to the Somali Security Forces, including conducting joint operations with AMISOM in order to become the primary security provider in Somalia, and *calling* for its swift finalisation and implementation,

Welcoming the Federal Government of Somalia and the international community's commitment to a Comprehensive Approach to Security (CAS) in Somalia, and *recognizing* the need for non-military approaches as part of this approach in order to achieve long-term human security for Somalis,

Welcoming the Federal Government of Somalia's active engagement with the Universal Periodic Review process, *encouraging* full implementation of all accepted

recommendations, *condemning* the continued violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law in Somalia, and *underscoring* the need to end impunity, uphold and fulfil human rights and hold accountable those responsible for crimes involving violations or abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law,

Recognising that the year ahead should see the swift implementation of critical agreements reached in 2017, particularly the outcomes from the December High Level Meetings in Mogadishu which agreed a Mutual Accountability Framework setting out political, economic and security priorities for 2018, agreed to map a conditions-based transition with clear target dates and an implementation plan for the national security architecture which together lay the political, development and economic milestones for the completion of the political roadmap, *underscoring* the importance of effective implementation and mutual accountability, and *emphasising* UNSOM's central role to support implementation,

Recalling the 10 December 2017 UN Protection of Civilians Report and the Conclusions on Children and Armed Conflict (S/AC.51/2017/2),

Expressing grave concern at the credible and continued risk of famine in Somalia as a result of the severe drought in the context of ongoing conflict and environmental factors, *welcoming* the Federal Government of Somalia's response to the humanitarian crisis, and *encouraging* further cooperation with international and national humanitarian actors to relieve immediate need and build longer-term resilience, including for internally displaced persons,

Recalling its Presidential statement S/PRST/2011/15, *recognising* the adverse effects of climate change, ecological changes and natural disasters among other factors on the stability of Somalia, including through drought, desertification, land degradation, and food insecurity, and *emphasising* the need for adequate risk assessments and risk management strategies by governments and the United Nations relating to these factors;

Welcoming the generous support of donors to the Somali authorities and the Humanitarian Response Plan, *encouraging* further contributions to humanitarian assistance efforts, and *welcoming* United Nations' efforts to coordinate the drought response and support the Somali authorities,

UNSOM

1. *Decides* to extend until 31 March 2019 UNSOM's mandate as set out in paragraph 1 of resolution 2158 (2014);

2. *Requests* UNSOM to implement its mandate at both the national and regional level, including through strengthening further and maintaining its presence in all Federal Member States including in Galmudug and its administrative capital Dhusamareb, subject to United Nations security requirements and as the security situation allows, in order to provide strategic policy advice on the Somali Government-led inclusive political process, reconciliation, peacebuilding, state-building, including the review of the Provisional Federal Constitution, their preparations for the 2020/21 elections, security sector reform and implementation of the Transition Plan;

3. *Underscores* the importance of UNSOM's support to the Somali-Government-led inclusive political process, including the provision of United Nations good offices functions to support the Federal Government of Somalia's peace and reconciliation process, in particular with regard to the consolidation of the state formation, mediation, prevention and resolution of conflicts, and constitutional review processes, resource and revenue sharing, improved accountability of Somali

institutions especially on anti-corruption issues, strengthening the rule of law, including the development of an effective federal political system, and a federal justice system, and implementation of the new policing model in line with the Comprehensive Approach to Security;

4. *Further underscores* the importance of UNSOM's support to the Federal Government of Somalia on preparations for the delivery of an inclusive, credible and transparent one person, one vote elections in 2020/2021 with a focus on the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) at national and sub-national level to fulfil its constitutional mandate, in line with the Somali-led Operational Strategic Plan for 2017–2021, the goal of nationwide voter registration by 2019, and coordination of international electoral support to Somalia;

5. *Encourages* UNSOM to enhance its interaction with Somali civil society at national and regional level, including women, youth including through the Youth Council and the Youth Caucus, business and religious leaders, and to help ensure that the views of civil society are incorporated into the various Somali-led, inclusive political processes;

6. *Requests* UNSOM to provide strategic advice to accelerate implementation of the Comprehensive Approach to Security, including facilitating more effective coordination of international partners' efforts to support the Security Pact, priorities of the Transition Plan, National Security Architecture implementation and the New Partnership for Somalia;

7. *Requests* UNSOM, in coordination with international partners, to continue to support the Federal Government of Somalia's efforts to implement Somalia's National Strategy and Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in order to strengthen Somalia's capacity to prevent and counter terrorism, consistent with its international obligations, relevant Security Council resolutions and implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;

8. *Requests* UNSOM to support system-wide implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) across all United Nations support to AMISOM and the Somali security sector;

9. *Welcomes* the strong relationship between UNSOM, UNSOS the United Nations Country Team and AMISOM, and *underlines* the importance of all entities continuing to strengthen the relationship further at all levels, including through the Senior Leadership Coordination Forum;

10. *Requests* UNSOM to continue to implement its mandate in an integrated manner, and *welcomes* the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen strategic integration and decision-making across the UN system within respective mandates, including with consideration of the role of women and youth;

Somalia

11. *Welcomes* the commitment of the Federal Government of Somalia, in accordance with the rule of law, to continue to make progress on inclusive transparent and accountable state-building and federalism through the next phase of the constitutional review process, including allocation of powers, resource and revenue sharing, the development of a political system, and Federal Justice and Corrections Model signed on 24 January 2018, *further welcomes* the commitment of the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States to work closely together through the National Security Council mechanism, and with the Parliament on these issues, building on the existing work on the constitutional review, and *encourages* dialogue with civil society and the Somali public, including the integration of women and youth in this regard;

12. *Emphasises* the importance of reconciliation, including inter and intra-clan reconciliation, across the country as the basis of a long-term approach to stability, and *urges* the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States to pursue reconciliation talks at local, regional and national level, including a resumption of the dialogue with "Somaliland";

13. *Welcomes* the commitments of the Federal Government of Somalia to one person, one vote elections in 2020/2021, the launch of the National Independent Electoral Commission strategic plan and the commitment to develop and approve an electoral law setting out the legislative framework by the end of 2018, *recalls* PRST/2017/3 in which the Security Council called for active steps to lay the foundation for elections in four years, and *stresses* the importance in this regard of the Federal Government of Somalia and Federal Member States reaching agreement on the system of representation, decisions on voter registration, institutional development of the NIEC and development and adoption of the Electoral law in 2018;

14. *Reaffirms* the important role of women and youth in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, and in peacebuilding, *stresses* the importance of their full, equal and effective participation in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, *notes* that women are not adequately represented in governmental organisations at regional and national level and *urges* the Federal Government of Somalia and Federal Member States to continue to promote increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in Somali institutions;

15. *Welcomes* the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States' commitment to security sector reform, in particular the historic political agreement Somalia's leaders reached on 16 April 2017 to integrate regional and federal forces into a coherent National Security Architecture capable of gradually taking on lead responsibility for providing inclusive security, *welcomes* the integration of Puntland security forces into the Somali National Army, the establishment and meetings of the National Security Council and National Security Office, the completion of the national operational readiness assessment, as an essential element for the right-sizing and reform of the Somali Security Forces, and the commitment to undertake regional operational readiness assessments as soon as possible;

16. *Welcomes* the development of a realistic conditions-based Transition Plan with clear target dates agreed by the Federal Government of Somalia, Federal Member States and international partners and formalised on 4 December 2017 at the Security Conference in Mogadishu;

17. *Underlines* the importance of swift implementation of the National Security Architecture in order to develop Somali-led security institutions and forces, both military and civilian, that are capable, affordable, acceptable and accountable with the ability to provide security and protection to the people of Somalia, in particular to deliver effective security and protection for women, children and persons in vulnerable situations, as part of a comprehensive approach to security, and *emphasises* the vital importance of the rule of law and civilian oversight of security forces complying with international humanitarian law and human rights law as applicable, in particular with respect to ending and preventing recruitment, re-recruitment and the use of children in armed conflict;

18. *Welcomes* the launch of Somalia's National Strategy and Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, the development of Federal Member States action plans, and *calls upon* Somalia to become party to the international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols;

19. *Welcomes* commitments by international partners to provide additional and more effective support, including more standardised and more coordinated delivery of mentoring, training, equipment, capacity-building, and remuneration of police and military forces consistent with the Security Pact agreed at the London Somalia Conference and in line with a realistic conditions-based transition plan with clear target dates;

20. *Calls on* international partners to strengthen coordination in order to harmonise donor support to the Somali security sector, and *requests* UNSOM to continue to assist the Federal Government of Somalia in coordinating international donor support to Somalia's security sector in compliance with HRDDP, including through coordination and advice to the comprehensive approach to security structure;

21. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Federal Government of Somalia to meet the requirements of the ongoing IMF Staff Monitored Programme, *encourages* the Federal Government of Somalia to continue to fulfil its commitments to sound, transparent and accountable financial management including revenue mobilisation, resource allocation, budget execution, and anti-corruption measures, as set out in the New Partnership for Somalia, and *requests* UNSOM to continue to work with partners to provide support and strategic policy advice to achieve this in order to lay the foundations for inclusive and transparent elections, bolster the Government's ability to deliver services, attract investment, and help advance Somalia along the path towards normalisation with International Financial Institutions and debt relief;

22. *Expresses* concern about all violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights including by Al-Shabaab and affiliates linked to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, *calls* on all parties to comply immediately with their obligations under international law and to fulfil their obligations under international humanitarian law to take all feasible precautions to avoid or, in any event minimise civilian deaths and casualties;

23. *Welcomes* the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, and *encourages* the Federal Government of Somalia to approve the appointment of the Commissioners, and implement fully the Action Plan of its Human Rights Roadmap, including by implementing legislation aimed at protecting human rights and investigating and prosecuting perpetrators of crimes involving violations or abuses of human rights, violations of international humanitarian law, and conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence;

24. *Underlines* the importance of respect for international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians, especially women and children, by all parties to the conflict in Somalia;

25. *Reiterates* its continued concern at the high number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), including persons newly displaced by the drought, *expressing* its serious concern at the ongoing forced evictions of IDPs in Somalia, *stresses* that any eviction should be consistent with relevant national and international frameworks, *calls upon* the Federal Government of Somalia and all relevant actors to strive to provide concrete durable solutions for internal displacement, and further calls upon the Federal Government of Somalia and all relevant actors to strive to create the conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees and IDPs with the support of the international community;

26. *Expresses* grave concern at the worsening humanitarian crisis and renewed risk of famine in Somalia and its impact on the people of Somalia, *commends* the efforts of the United Nations humanitarian agencies and their humanitarian partners

in preventing famine in 2017, *encourages* all partners and donors to maintain humanitarian efforts in 2018, *condemns* any misuse or obstruction of humanitarian assistance, *reiterates* its demand that all parties allow and facilitate full, safe, rapid and unhindered access for the timely delivery of aid to persons in need across Somalia in line with the humanitarian principles, including by dismantling illegal checkpoints and removing administrative hurdles, *underlines* the importance of proper accounting in international humanitarian support, and *encourages* national disaster management agencies in Somalia to scale-up capacity with support from the United Nations to take a stronger coordination and leadership role;

27. *Strongly condemns* all violations and abuses committed against children in armed conflict in Somalia, *calls upon* the Federal Government of Somalia to implement fully the Convention of the Rights of the Child 1989, and the Action Plans signed in 2012, the recently adopted Somali National Army Command Order on the Protection of Children's Rights before, during and after operations and the Standard Operation Procedures on the handover of children, and *underscores* the need to strengthen the legal and operational framework for the protection of children, including by ratification of or accession to its Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Security Council regularly informed on the implementation of this resolution, identify and report on progress towards achieving key political benchmarks, including through oral updates and no fewer than three written reports, with the first written report by 1 May 2018 and every 120 days thereafter;

29. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

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Resolution 2409 (2018)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 8216th meeting, on 27 March 2018

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and the statements of its President concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), especially its resolutions 2389 (2017), 2360 (2017), 2348 (2017), 2293 (2016), 2277 (2016), 2211 (2015), 2198 (2015), 2147 (2014), 2136 (2014), and 2098 (2013),

Reaffirming the basic principles of peacekeeping, including consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force, except in self-defence and defence of the mandate, and *recognizing* that the mandate of each peacekeeping mission is specific to the need and situation of the country concerned,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the DRC as well as all States in the region and *emphasizing* the need to respect fully the principles of non-interference, good-neighbourliness and regional cooperation,

Recalling that the Government of the DRC bears the primary responsibility to protect civilians within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, including protection from crimes against humanity and war crimes,

Reaffirming its strong support for the "Comprehensive and Inclusive Political Agreement" signed in Kinshasa on 31 December 2016, which remains the only viable path out of the current political situation, *calling for* a swift and full implementation of the agreement, in good faith and in all its components, in order to organize peaceful, credible, inclusive and timely elections on 23 December 2018, in line with the electoral calendar, leading to a peaceful transfer of power, in accordance with the Congolese Constitution,

Recalling that full and timely implementation of the 31 December 2016 agreement and the electoral calendar is critical in supporting the legitimacy of the transitional institutions, *stressing* the crucial importance of a peaceful and credible electoral cycle, in accordance with the Constitution and respecting the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, for lasting stabilization, rule of law and consolidation of constitutional democracy in the DRC, and *calling on* the DRC government to immediately implement the confidence-building measures in full, as per the agreement, including by putting an end to restrictions of the political space in the DRC, in particular arbitrary arrests and detention of members of the

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political opposition and of civil society, as well as restrictions of fundamental freedoms such as the freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of the press, and the right of peaceful assembly,

Recalling the importance of taking urgent measures to restore confidence between all actors involved in the electoral process, *stressing* the importance of the Government of the DRC and its national partners taking all necessary steps to accelerate preparations for the elections without further delay, and to ensure an environment conducive to the peaceful and inclusive conduct of political activities, including the security of all political actors, and *reiterating* its commitment to act accordingly regarding all Congolese actors whose actions and statement impede the implementation of the agreement and the timely organization of the elections,

Calling upon all parties to continue to reject violence of any kind, exercise maximum restraint in their actions and statements, to refrain from provocations such as violence and violent speeches, so as not to further inflame the situation, and to address their differences peacefully,

Remaining deeply concerned by reports of increased serious violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law committed by some members of the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC), the National Intelligence Agency (ANR), the Republican Guard and Congolese National Police (PNC), including against members of the opposition and of civil society in the context of the electoral process, *strongly condemning* the killing of civilians by State and non-State actors and disproportionate use of force by elements of the security forces, including during peaceful protests, in accordance with national legislation, *stressing* the importance of releasing all persons detained arbitrarily, including human rights defenders and persons of different political affiliations, and *emphasizing* that the Government of the DRC must respect human rights and refrain from disproportionate use of force,

Welcoming in that regard the report of the Joint Commission of Inquiry, composed of representatives of the Ministries of Human Rights, Justice and Security, the National Commission of Human Rights and civil society, set up to investigate allegations of human rights violations and abuses committed on 31 December 2017 and 21 January 2018, which notes "cases of illegal use of force" and of violations of the right of freedom of religious assembly, and *calling* for the implementation of its recommendations, including regarding banning the use of live ammunition,

Reiterating its concern over the lack of progress in the investigations and prosecutions against alleged perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses committed during the 2011 electoral process, in January 2015, September and December 2016, in December 2017, and January and February 2018, and *calling for* further efforts to hold those responsible to account and fight impunity,

Remaining deeply concerned by the persistent high levels of violence and violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, *condemning* in particular those involving targeted attacks against civilians, widespread sexual and gender-based violence, recruitment and use of children by armed groups and militias, the forced displacement of significant numbers of civilians, extrajudicial executions and arbitrary arrests, *recognizing* their deleterious effect on the stabilization, reconstruction and development efforts in the DRC, and *emphasizing that* all those responsible for all such violations and abuses must be swiftly apprehended, brought to justice and held accountable, and *calling upon* the Government of the DRC to facilitate, in line with previous agreements, full and unhindered access for the Joint Human Rights Office in the DRC to all detention centres, hospitals and morgues and all other premises required for documenting human rights violations, as applicable,

Recalling the importance of fighting impunity within all ranks of FARDC and PNC, *commending* the DRC authorities for prosecutions and convictions of members of the FARDC and PNC for crimes against humanity and *encouraging* them to take further action, and *stressing the need* for the Government of the DRC to continue to ensure the increased professionalism of its security forces, including the training and capacity building aimed at security during public meetings and protests fully respecting domestic and international human rights law,

Noting that the DRC has continued to suffer from recurring and evolving cycles of conflict and persistent violence by armed groups, *expressing* particular concern at the reports of growing inter-communal and militia violence in areas of the DRC, in particular in the regions of Kasaï and Tanganyika, including attacks against religious institutions, and killings of policemen, *further expressing concerns* about mass graves in the Kasaï region, and *calling upon* all parties to take appropriate measures to protect and respect United Nations, diplomatic and foreign premises, property and personnel and other civilians in the DRC,

Reiterating its deep concern regarding the security and humanitarian crisis in the DRC exacerbated by destabilizing activities of foreign and domestic armed groups, *stressing* the importance of neutralizing armed groups in the DRC, and *recognizing* the importance of efforts of the FARDC and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), including by conducting joint operations, in accordance with its mandate and the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations-support to non-United Nations forces (HRDDP), in that regard, *recalling* the strategic importance of the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the DRC and the region, and *reiterating* its call to all signatories to fulfil promptly, fully and in good faith their respective commitments under this Framework in order to address the root causes of conflict and put an end to recurring cycles of violence, and promote lasting regional development,

Recalling that it is prepared to impose targeted sanctions under paragraph 7 (d) and (e) of its resolution 2293 (2016), regarding inter alia human rights violations or abuses or violations of international humanitarian law,

Stressing the need for continued cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC) by the Government of the DRC, and *stressing* the importance of actively seeking to hold accountable those responsible for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity in the country,

Encouraging the continuation of efforts by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the African Union (AU), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to restore peace and security in the DRC, *encouraging* the Government of the DRC to ensure continuous close cooperation with these and other international parties, and *recognizing* the efforts of the Government of the DRC aiming at the achievement of peace and national development,

Expressing concern at the illegal exploitation and trafficking of natural resources by armed groups among others, and the negative impact of armed conflict on protected natural areas, which undermines lasting peace and development for the DRC, and *encouraging* the Government of the DRC to strengthen efforts to safeguard those areas,

Welcoming the decisions of the ICGLR at its 7th summit on 19 October 2017 regarding the fight against illegal exploitation of natural resources in the Great Lakes region and *encouraging* member States to further increase cooperation in fighting illegal exploitation and trade of natural resources, including gold and wildlife,

Expressing great concern over the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation that has left at least 13.1 million Congolese in need of humanitarian assistance, including more than 7.7 million severely food insecure people, *expressing deep concern* that the worsening humanitarian situation has reached catastrophic levels in some parts of the country and has prompted the United Nations to activate the highest level of emergency preparedness, further *expressing deep concern* regarding the very high number of internally displaced persons in the DRC which has more than doubled in the last year to more than 4.49 million, and the 540,000 refugees in the DRC, as well as the more than 714,000 refugees from the DRC as a result of ongoing hostilities, *calling* on member States and other international partners to scale up funding to urgently respond to the humanitarian needs in the country, *further calling upon* the DRC and all States in the region to work towards a peaceful environment conducive to the realization of durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons, including their eventual voluntary return and reintegration in the DRC in conditions of safety and dignity, with the support of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), *stressing* that any such solution should be in line with relevant obligations under international refugee law, international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and *commending* United Nations humanitarian agencies, partners, and donors for their efforts to provide urgent and coordinated support to the population,

Expressing further concern at increased impediments to humanitarian access in eastern DRC resulting from insecurity and violence, as well as continued attacks against humanitarian actors and assets, *calling upon* all parties to respect the impartiality, independence and neutrality of humanitarian actors, and *underlining* the need for safe and unhindered access for humanitarian actors,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions on women, peace and security, on children and armed conflict, and on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, also *recalling* the conclusions on children and armed conflict in the DRC (S/AC.51/2014/3) adopted on 18 September 2014 by the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict pertaining to the parties in armed conflicts of the DRC, and *welcoming* efforts of the Government of the DRC in this regard, *welcoming* efforts by the Government of the DRC to implement resolution 1325 (2000) and *encouraging* the implementation of the National Action plan,

Welcoming the progress achieved by the Government of the DRC, including the Presidential Adviser on Sexual Violence and the Recruitment of Children, in cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Children and Armed Conflict, the SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict, and MONUSCO, to implement the action plans to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children and sexual violence by the FARDC, and to combat impunity for sexual violence in conflict, including sexual violence committed by the FARDC and the PNC,

Welcoming the efforts of MONUSCO and international partners in delivering training in human rights, international humanitarian law, gender mainstreaming, child protection and protection from sexual and gender-based violence for Congolese security institutions and *underlining* their importance,

Welcoming the commitment of the Secretary-General to enforce strictly his zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), *noting* the various measures taken by MONUSCO and Troop- and Police-contributing countries (T/PCCs) to combat SEA, which has led to a reduction in reported cases, but still *expressing grave concern* over numerous allegations of SEA reportedly committed by peacekeepers and civilian personnel in the DRC, *emphasizing* the need to ensure that incidents can be reported and duly verified in a safe and simple manner, *stressing* the urgent need

for T/PCCs and, as appropriate, MONUSCO to promptly investigate those allegations in a credible and transparent manner and for those responsible for such criminal offences or misconduct to be held to account, and *further stressing* the need to prevent such exploitation and abuse and to improve how these allegations are addressed in line with resolution 2272 (2016),

Reaffirming that the successful protection of civilians is critical to the fulfilment of MONUSCO's mandate and the delivery of an improved security environment, also *stressing* the importance of peaceful means and progress on key reforms to promote the protection of civilians, as well as appropriate prioritization and resourcing,

Reaffirming its strong support to the SRSG and MONUSCO in the implementation of their mandates, *strongly encouraging* the continuation of their efforts and *calling on* the Secretariat to support MONUSCO to fully implement its mandate,

Recalling that it is important that all MONUSCO contingents, including the contingents of the Intervention Brigade, are properly trained and effectively equipped, including with adequate language skills, staffed and supported to be able to sustain their commitment to carry out their respective tasks,

Recalling resolution 2378 (2017), which requests the Secretary-General to ensure that data related to the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, including peacekeeping performance data, is used to improve analytics and evaluation of mission operations, based on clear and well identified benchmarks,

Noting the publication of the report on "Improving Security of United Nations Peacekeepers", which *highlights* the link between the safety and security of peacekeepers and the performance of troops, *recognizing* that fatalities can be a consequence of deficiencies in training, equipment and performance,

Welcoming the initiative of the SG to conduct Special Investigations into performance issues, *encouraging* the SG to report on the findings of such investigations and efforts to take collective action to improve peacekeeping operations,

Noting the financial constraints the United Nations face and the need for the United Nations to make the best use of the resources placed at its disposal, *encouraging* Member States to ensure that MONUSCO is sufficiently resourced and equipped to effectively carry out its mandate and to ensure that the United Nations makes the best use of the resources placed at its disposal,

Reiterating its call on all parties to cooperate fully with MONUSCO and to remain committed to the full and objective implementation of the Mission's mandate, *reiterating* its condemnation of any and all attacks against peacekeepers, and *emphasizing* that those responsible for such attacks must be held accountable,

Emphasizing that MONUSCO's activities should be conducted in such a manner as to build and sustain peace and facilitate progress towards sustainable peace and development, *stressing* the need to involve the UNCT and, in this regard, *emphasizing* the importance of joint analysis and effective strategic planning with the UNCT,

Determining that the situation in the DRC continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

Political situation and electoral process

1. *Reiterates* its appeal to all Congolese actors to work for the preservation of the still fragile gains in the path of peace and stability in the DRC, *underscores* the

responsibility that all Congolese political stakeholders bear, especially by overcoming their differences to reach consensus and upholding the interests and well-being of their people above all other considerations, *strongly urges* all stakeholders, most notable all signatories of the 31 December 2016 Agreement, to remain committed to the Agreement and actively engaged to ensure its full implementation and work towards the holding of transparent, credible and inclusive elections within the timetable announced by the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), including by refraining from provocations such as violence and violent speech, exercising maximum restraint in their actions and statements and addressing their differences peacefully,

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide political support to the implementation of the Agreement and the restoration of trust among the different parties and preparation of the elections, consistent with this resolution, including through his good offices;

3. *Calls on* all stakeholders in the DRC, including President Kabila, the presidential majority and the opposition, to swiftly implement the Agreement, in good faith and in all its components, and to fully implement confidence-building measures, and in particular the release of all political prisoners, an end to "unjustified lawsuits", as they are referred to in the agreement, an end to the duplication of political parties and a credible candidates registration process, and allowing all main political parties to appoint their own representatives in the bodies overseeing the electoral process, in order to proceed without further delay to the preparation of the elections due to take place on 23 December 2018;

4. *Reiterates* its determination to bring its full support to the implementation of the Agreement and that effective, swift and timely implementation of the Agreement is critical to a credible process and the peace and stability of the DRC and in supporting the legitimacy of the transitional institutions;

5. *Calls* for continued and close coordination between the United Nations, the African Union, the ICGLR, SADC, and other key regional actors to ensure full implementation of the Agreement and the successful conclusion of the electoral process;

6. *Underscores* the need to do everything possible to ensure that the elections on 23 December 2018 are organized with the requisite conditions of transparency, credibility and inclusivity and security, including full and effective participation of women at all stages, *calls on* the Government of the DRC and its national partners, including the CENI, to ensure a safe, transparent and credible electoral process, in fulfilment of their primary responsibility to create propitious conditions for the forthcoming elections, as per the 31 December 2016 agreement, and in accordance with the Constitution and national legislation, and respecting the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, including by ensuring full access to the CENI budget, plans and operations to Congolese observers and by ensuring continuous dialogue with political parties and civil society representatives, so as to ensure consensus and confidence in the conduct of the electoral process;

7. *Welcomes* the completion of the voter registration by the CENI, with the active support of MONUSCO, the adoption of the amended electoral law and of the election financing bill by the Congolese parliament, *calls on* the CENI to ensure the electoral calendar and key election benchmarks are respected, which include finalizing a clear and transparent budget, cleaning the voter registry by April 2018, conducting an independent audit of the registry by May 2018, and respecting deadlines for candidate registration finalised by August 2018, culminating in elections being held on 23 December 2018 and transfer of power on 12 January 2019;

8. *Calls on* the Parliament during the ordinary session starting on 15 March 2018 to adopt revisions to the law for the distribution of seats needed to keep the electoral timeline in conformity with the electoral calendar, *further calls on* all political stakeholders to take measures to improve women participation in the elections, especially ensuring an increase in the number of women candidates standing for election;

9. *Encourages* the CENI to approve the multi-partner fund for the Projet d'Appui au Cycle Electoral au Congo (PACEC) in order to support civic education, the deployment of elections monitors and provide other important types of support for the election process and *encourages* donors to fund it accordingly, *welcomes* the commitment by the United Nations, the African Union, SADC, the European Union and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie to support the electoral process, and the establishment of a joint team of experts from these organizations, as well as the role of ICGLR, and *encourages* the CENI to make us of their support;

10. *Urges* the Government as well as all relevant parties to ensure an environment conducive to a free, fair, credible, inclusive, transparent, peaceful and timely electoral process, in accordance with the Congolese Constitution and the 31 December 2016 Agreement, which includes, for women and men alike, free and constructive political debate, freedom of opinion and expression, including for the press, freedom of assembly, equitable access to media including State media, the security of all political actors, freedom of movement for all candidates, as well as for election observers and witnesses, journalists, human rights defenders and actors from civil society;

Human Rights

11. *Urges* the Government of the DRC to hold accountable those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law or violations and abuses of human rights, as applicable, in particular those that may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, including those committed in the context of the electoral process, and *stresses the importance* to this end of both regional cooperation and the DRC's cooperation with the ICC, as well as cooperation with the African court of Human and People's rights;

12. *Expresses* concern about the increase in reported human rights violations by State agents, *calls upon* the Congolese authorities to ensure the prosecution of those responsible for the crimes involving grave human rights violations and abuses committed in the context of the 28 November 2011 elections and the current electoral process, deplores the loss of lives, injuries and arrests recorded during various incidents and *condemns* any disproportionate use of force, and *calls on* the Congolese authorities to urgently investigate any disproportionate use of force by security forces on peaceful protesters, in particular on 31 December 2017, 21 January 2018 and 25 February 2018, so that those responsible for these acts are swiftly brought to justice, *underlines* the importance of observing the rule of law;

13. *Calls on* the Government of the DRC to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially the right of peaceful assembly, lift the blanket ban on demonstrations, and to exercise maximum restraint in their response to protests, as recommended by the report of the Congolese Joint Commission of Inquiry on Allegations of Human Rights Violations and Abuses committed on 31 December 2017 and 21 January 2018, and also calls upon the opposition actors to ensure the peaceful character of their demonstrations and to respect national legislation;

14. *Reiterates its condemnation* of the violence witnessed in the Kasaï region over the past year, *further reiterates* the importance and urgency of prompt and transparent investigations into violations of international humanitarian law and

violations or abuses of human rights in the region, as well as its intention to closely monitor progress of the investigations into these violations and abuses, including the joint investigations by the Government of the DRC, MONUSCO and the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the DRC, in order to bring to justice and hold accountable all those responsible, and *looks forward* to their results; *further calls upon* the Government of the DRC to continue to cooperate with the team of international experts on the situation in the Kasai regions, as mandated by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 35/33, and *urges* the Government of the DRC to fully cooperate with the united Nations team deployed, as agreed, to assist the Congolese authorities investigations into the deaths of the two UN experts in March 2017, and ensure all perpetrators are brought to justice and held accountable;

15. *Welcomes* efforts made by the Government of the DRC to combat and prevent sexual violence in conflict, including progress made in the fight against impunity through the arrest, prosecution and conviction of perpetrators from the FARDC and the PNC, and *urges* the Government of the DRC to continue to strengthen its efforts to combat impunity for sexual violence in conflict, including sexual violence committed by the FARDC and PNC at all levels, and to provide all necessary services and protection to survivors and victims, *and further calls upon* the Government of the DRC to complete investigations into allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by members of the FARDC in line with the zero-tolerance policy and, if appropriate, to prosecute those responsible;

16. *Encourages* the Government of the DRC to implement in full its National Strategy and the Roadmap agreed during the national conference in Kinshasa from 11–13 October 2016 to evaluate the implementation of the Joint Communiqué between the Government of the DRC and the United Nations on the Fight Against Sexual Violence in Conflict adopted in Kinshasa on 30 March 2013;

17. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children by the FARDC and the subsequent delisting of the FARDC for child recruitment and use, and *calls upon* the Government of the DRC to urgently ensure the gains of this Action plan are sustained and to take all necessary steps to end and prevent violations and abuses against children, and to ensure that children are not detained for their alleged association with armed groups and are handed over to child protection actors, in line with the Ministry of Defence and the National Intelligence Agency Directives issued in 2013;

Armed Groups

18. *Condemns* the increased activity of armed groups in the DRC and shifting conflict dynamics, including a recent increase in violence against local communities and politically motivated violence, attacks against UN forces and the DRC armed forces, escalating ethnic tensions and intercommunal violence, and an increase in displacement, and *reiterates* its strong condemnation of attacks against MONUSCO peacekeepers, in particular the attack on 7 December 2017;

19. *Strongly condemns* all armed groups operating in the DRC and their violations of international humanitarian law as well as other applicable international law, and abuses of human rights especially those involving attacks on the civilian population, United Nations and associated personnel and humanitarian actors, summary executions, sexual and gender based violence and recruitment and use of children, abductions of children and humanitarian personnel, attacks on schools and hospitals in violation of applicable international law, and *reiterates* that those responsible must be held accountable;

20. *Demands* that all armed groups cease immediately all forms of violence, including violations and abuses against children and other destabilizing activities, the

illegal exploitation and trafficking of natural resources, and *further demands* that their members immediately and permanently disband, lay down their arms, reject violence and release children from their ranks, *recalls* in this regard its resolution 2360 (2017) renewing the sanctions regime established by its resolution 1807 (2008), and further *welcomes* the commitment of the signatory states of the PSC Framework to complete without precondition the repatriation of the FDLR disarmed combatants and former M23 combatants within the shortest time frame possible, *urges* the Governments of the region, with the support of the PSC Guarantors, to strengthen their collaboration to meet the agreed timeframe, and *recalls* in this regard its resolution 2389 (2017);

21. *Calls for* joint operations by the FARDC and MONUSCO, that include joint planning and tactical cooperation, in accordance with MONUSCO's mandate and the United Nations HRDDP, to ensure all efforts possible are being made to neutralize armed groups and *stresses* the need to carry out operations in strict compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as applicable;

22. *Calls on* the Government of the DRC to take further military action, in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as applicable, in coordination and with the support of MONUSCO in accordance with its mandate, to end the threat posed by armed groups operating in eastern DRC, *further calls* on the Government of the DRC and other signatories to implement the provisions of the PSC Framework related to the root causes of conflict in order to put an end to the recurring cycle of violence;

23. *Welcomes* the renewed commitment of all the signatory states of the PSC Framework towards its full implementation, as expressed in the Communique of the Eighth High-Level Meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism, held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, on 19 October 2017, *reaffirms* that the PSC Framework remains an essential mechanism to achieve durable peace and stability in the DRC and the Region, and *stresses* in this regard the importance of the signatory States fully implementing their national and regional commitments under the PSC Framework, including not interfering in the internal affairs of neighbouring countries, neither tolerating nor providing assistance or support of any kind to armed groups, and neither harbouring nor providing protection of any kind to persons accused of war crimes, crimes against humanity or acts of genocide;

24. *Calls for* a suitable solution for the relocation of elements of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army-in Opposition (SPLM/A-iO) currently present in the DRC, with the support of the Government of the DRC, the wider region, international partners and the Secretary-General through his good offices, *welcomes* the establishment of a joint working group, and *supports* the efforts of the United Nations in that regard;

25. *Calls on* the Government of the DRC, which has the primary responsibility for safeguarding the DRC's sovereignty and territorial integrity, to make further meaningful progress in implementing its commitments under the PSC Framework, in particular as regards the consolidation of State authority, reconciliation, tolerance and democracy, and to remain fully committed to protecting the civilian population through the swift establishment of professional, accountable and sustainable security forces, the deployment of an accountable Congolese civil administration, in particular the police, judiciary, prison and territorial administration and the consolidation of rule of law and promotion and protection of human rights;

26. *Notes with deep concern* the limited progress in those fields essential for the DRC's stabilization and *reiterates* its call to the Government of the DRC to take further steps in particular to uphold its national commitments to Security Sector Reform (SSR), and to readjust and implement fully and immediately the national

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme, ensuring the protection of children's rights is an integral part of those processes;

27. *Calls for* continued national efforts to address the threat posed by the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, including inter alia through ensuring the safe and effective management, storage and security of their stockpiles of weapons and ammunition, with the continued support of MONUSCO, as appropriate and within existing resources;

28. *Encourages* the Government of the DRC to fully implement its DDR plan and provide appropriate funding, and initiate a strategic shift away from static demobilization to a more flexible approach, in order to effectively attract former combatants into joining the DDR programme, *acknowledges* that the absence of a credible DDR process adjusted to current armed groups dynamics is preventing armed elements from laying down their weapons, further demands that the government conduct any integration of former combatants into the security sector in a transparent manner and in line with international DDR and SSR standards;

MONUSCO's mandate

29. *Decides* to extend until 31 March 2019 the mandate of MONUSCO in the DRC, including, on an exceptional basis and without creating a precedent or any prejudice to the agreed principles of peacekeeping, its Intervention Brigade;

30. *Decides* that MONUSCO's authorized troop ceiling will be comprised of 16,215 military personnel, 660 military observers and staff officers, 391 police personnel, and 1,050 personnel of formed police units;

31. *Decides* that the strategic priorities of MONUSCO are to contribute to the following objectives:

(a) Protection of civilians, as described in paragraph 36 (i) of this resolution;

(b) Support to the implementation of the 31 December 2016 agreement and the electoral process, as described in paragraph 36 (ii) of this resolution, in order to hold credible elections, thus contributing to the stabilization of the DRC;

32. *Stresses* that MONUSCO's mandate should be implemented based on a prioritization of tasks established in paragraphs 36 to 37 of this resolution, and *further requests* the Secretary-General to reflect this prioritization in the deployment of the mission and to align budgetary resources according to the prioritization of mandate tasks as set out in this resolution, while ensuring appropriate resources for the implementation of the mandate, and, in this regard, *reaffirms* that the protection of civilians must be given priority in decisions about the use of available capacity and resources,

33. *Notes* that drivers behind different armed groups' activities and militia violence are varied and that there is no purely military solution to these problems, *underlines* the importance of enhanced political and conflict analysis to inform comprehensive military and civil responses to these threats across MONUSCO, including through collecting, analysing and exchanging information at the proper levels on the criminal networks which support these armed groups and *further underlines* the need for tailored responses in tackling armed groups;

34. *Stresses* the need for coordination and cooperation between the Government of the DRC and other national authorities, United Nations entities and development actors to build and sustain peace, stabilize, improve security situation and assist in restoration of State authority;

35. *Authorizes* MONUSCO, in pursuit of its mandated tasks, to take all necessary measures to carry out its mandate and *requests* the Secretary-General to immediately inform the Security Council should the MONUSCO Force or Police fail to do so;

36. *Decides* that the mandate of MONUSCO shall include the following priority tasks, bearing in mind that these tasks as well as those in paragraph 37 below are mutually reinforcing:

(i) Protection of civilians

(a) Ensure effective, dynamic and integrated protection of civilians under threat of physical violence through a comprehensive approach, including by preventing, deterring, and stopping all armed groups and local militias from inflicting violence on the populations, and by supporting and undertaking local mediation efforts to prevent escalation of violence, paying particular attention to civilians gathered in displaced persons and refugee camps, peaceful demonstrators, humanitarian personnel and human rights defenders, in line with the basic principles of peacekeeping and with a focus on violence emerging from any of the parties engaged in the conflict, outbreaks of violence between ethnic or religious rival groups or communities in identified territories, as well as in the context of elections, and mitigating the risk to civilians before, during and after any military operation;

(b) Work with the Government of the DRC to identify threats to civilians and implement existing prevention and response plans and strengthen civil-military cooperation, including joint planning, to ensure the protection of civilians from abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and violations and abuses committed against children and persons with disabilities, and *requests* MONUSCO to accelerate the coordinated implementation of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on sexual violence in conflict and to continue to ensure the effectiveness of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict;

(c) Enhance its interaction with civilians, including by the troops, to raise awareness and understanding about its mandate and activities, to strengthen its early warning mechanism, and to increase its efforts to monitor and document violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights, including in the context of elections; and continue and strengthen local community engagement and empowerment, as well as strengthening protection of civilians through early warning and response, including prevention, as appropriate, and by ensuring mobility of the mission;

(d) Neutralize armed groups through the Intervention Brigade under direct command of MONUSCO Force commander; in support of the authorities of the DRC, on the basis of information collection and analysis, and taking full account of the need to protect civilians and mitigate risk before, during and after any military operation, carry out targeted offensive operations in the DRC through the Intervention Brigade with the support of the whole of MONUSCO, either unilaterally or jointly with the FARDC, in a robust, highly mobile and versatile manner and in strict compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law, and in accordance with the standing operating procedures applicable to persons who are captured or who surrender, and with the United Nations HRDDP, prevent the expansion of all armed groups, neutralize these groups, and disarm them in order to contribute to the objective of reducing the threat posed by armed groups to state authority and civilian security in the DRC and to make space for stabilization activities, and for the whole of MONUSCO force component to guarantee effective protection of civilians,

including in support of operations conducted by the Intervention Brigade to neutralize armed groups and in areas where armed groups have been neutralized;

(e) Provide good offices, advice and assistance to the Government of the DRC to ensure actions against armed groups are supported by civilian and police components as part of consolidated planning which provides a comprehensive response to area-based stabilization efforts;

(f) Work with the authorities of the DRC, leveraging UN Police investigation capacities and expertise, to arrest and bring to justice all those allegedly responsible for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity and violations of international humanitarian law and violations or abuses of human rights in the country, including through cooperation with States of the region and the ICC;

(g) Provide good offices, advice and support to the Government of the DRC to promote human rights, in particular civil and political rights, and to fight impunity, including through the implementation of the Government's "zero tolerance policy" with respect to discipline and human rights and international humanitarian law violations, committed by elements of the security sector, and to engage and facilitate mediation efforts at local level to advance sustainable peace;

(ii) Implementation of the 31 December 2016 agreement and support to the electoral process

(a) Provide technical and political support to the implementation of the 31 December 2016 agreement and the electoral process, including through good offices and engagement with interlocutors across the political spectrum, including the Government, opposition parties and civil society, in coordination with regional and international partners, and using an integrated approach throughout the United Nations making full use of the existing capacities of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Great lakes, the United Nations Office to the African Union and the United Nations Office for Central Africa, with a view to furthering reconciliation and democratization, paving the way for holding the elections on 23 December 2018, consistent with paragraphs 1 to 10 above;

(b) Provide technical assistance and logistical support for the electoral process, as appropriate and in coordination with Congolese authorities, the UNCT, regional and international actors, in order to facilitate the electoral cycle, in particular by engaging in a regular and substantial dialogue with the CENI, and *decides* that this support will be continually assessed and reviewed according to the progress made by the Congolese authorities in the steering of the electoral process, particularly on presidential and legislative elections, in accordance with paragraphs 1 to 10 above;

(c) Contribute to the provision of training to the PNC in relation to elections security, and to this purpose provide expertise and advice in order to coordinate all relevant planning and security support to a smooth progress towards the elections, including through human rights training, in compliance with the United Nations HRDDP;

(d) Monitor, report immediately to the Security Council, and follow-up on human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law to report on restrictions on political space and violence, including in the context of the elections, and support the United Nations system in-country to ensure that any support provided by the United Nations shall be consistent with international humanitarian law and human rights law and refugee law as applicable;

(iii) Protection of the United Nations

Ensure the protection of United Nations personnel, facilities, installations and equipment and the security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel;

37. *Further authorizes* MONUSCO to pursue the following tasks, in a streamlined and sequenced manner, and in support of the strategic priorities identified above:

(i) Stabilization and DDR

(a) Provide coordination between the Government of the DRC, international partners and United Nations agencies in a targeted, sequenced and coordinated approach to stabilization informed by up to date conflict analysis, through the implementation of the International Security and Stabilisation Support Strategy (ISSSS) and adoption of a conflict-sensitive approach across the Mission, in order to establish functional, professional, and accountable state institutions, including security and judicial institutions;

(b) Continue to collaborate with the Government of the DRC in the swift and vigorous implementation of the Action Plan to Prevent and end the Recruitment and Use of Children and Sexual Violence by the FARDC, and continue dialogue with all listed parties to obtain further commitments and work towards the development and implementation of action plans to prevent and end violations and abuses against children;

(c) Provide good offices, advice and assistance to the Government of the DRC, in close cooperation with other international partners, in the DDR of Congolese combatants not suspected of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity or abuses of human rights, into a peaceful civilian life in line with a Community Violence Reduction (CVR) approach through community-based security and stabilization measures and flexible disarmament and demobilization approach, coordinated under the framework of the ISSSS, while paying specific attention to the needs of children formerly associated with armed forces and groups;

(d) Provide support to the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration (DDRRR) process to return and reintegrate foreign combatants not suspected of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity or abuses of human rights and their dependants to a peaceful civilian life in their country of origin, or a receptive third country while paying specific attention to the needs of children formerly associated with armed forces and groups, including through the follow-up mechanism under the PSC Framework on the repatriation of FDLR disarmed combatants and their dependents that are in the transit camps of Kanyabayonga, Kisangani and Walungu;

(ii) Security Sector Reform (SSR)

Work with the Government of the DRC:

(a) In the reform of the police, including by assisting the Comité de réforme de la police, and by advocating for the establishment of the Secrétariat Général à la sécurité et à l'ordre public that will coordinate security institutions with a law enforcement mission;

(b) To encourage inclusive SSR, which delivers security, law enforcement and justice to all, including to women and children, and persons in vulnerable situation, and accelerate national ownership of SSR by the Government of the DRC, including through the development of a common national vision, to be encapsulated in a

national security policy, as well as a clear and comprehensive SSR implementation roadmap including benchmarks and timelines, and play a leading role in coordinating the support for SSR provided by international and bilateral partners and the United Nations system;

(c) In compliance with the United Nations HRDDP, for army reform that would enhance its accountability, efficiency, self-sustainability, training, vetting and effectiveness, while noting that any support provided by the United Nations, including in the form of rations and fuel, should be only for joint operations, jointly planned and executed, and subject to appropriate oversight and scrutiny, failing which that support should be suspended;

(d) For the implementation of any appropriate recommendations for justice and prison sector reforms as contained in the National Justice Reform Plan and the final report of the Etats généraux de la Justice, including on the fight against impunity, for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, in order to develop independent, accountable and functioning justice and security institutions;

(iii) Sanctions regime

Monitor the implementation of the arms embargo as described in paragraph 1 of resolution 2293 (2016) in cooperation with the Group of Experts established by resolution 1533 (2004), and in particular observe and report on flows of military personnel, arms or related materiel across the eastern border of the DRC, including by using, as specified in the letter of the Council dated 22 January 2013 (S/2013/44), surveillance capabilities provided by unmanned aerial systems, seize, collect, record and dispose of arms or related materiel brought into the DRC in violation of the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of resolution 2293 (2016), and exchange relevant information with the Group of Experts;

Child protection

38. *Requests* MONUSCO to take fully into account child protection as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Government of the DRC in ensuring that the protection of children's rights is taken into account, inter alia, in DDR processes and in SSR as well as during interventions leading to the separation of children from armed groups in order to end and prevent violations and abuses against children;

Gender, Sexual Violence, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

39. *Requests* MONUSCO to take fully into account gender considerations as a crosscutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Government of the DRC and other relevant stakeholders in ensuring the participation, involvement and representation of women at all levels, including in the creation of conditions conducive to the holding of elections, protection of civilians and support to stabilization efforts through, inter alia, the provision of gender and women protection advisers, and *further requests* enhanced reporting by MONUSCO to the Council on this issue;

40. *Recalls* its Presidential statement S/PRST/2015/22 and its resolution 2272 (2016), *reiterates* the urgent and imperative need to hold accountable all perpetrators of violations of international humanitarian law and violations and sexual exploitation and abuse, *requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure full compliance of all personnel in MONUSCO with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to keep the Council fully informed through his reports to the Council about the Mission's progress in this regard, and *urges* T/PCCs to take appropriate preventative action including vetting of

all personnel, predeployment and in-mission awareness training, and to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel through timely investigation of allegations by T/PCCs and MONUSCO, as appropriate;

41. *Acknowledges* the crucial role of United Nations Women Protection Advisers deployed in MONUSCO in supporting the Government of the DRC to implement its commitments on addressing sexual violence in conflict and *calls on* MONUSCO to ensure they continue to work closely with the Government of the DRC at both strategic and operational levels;

42. *Requests* MONUSCO to ensure that any support provided to national security forces is in strict compliance with the United Nations HRDDP, and *calls upon* the Government of the DRC to work with MONUSCO to support the promotion of DRC security service personnel with reputable human rights records;

Humanitarian Access

43. *Demands* that all parties allow and facilitate the full, safe, immediate and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel, equipment and supplies and the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance to populations in need, in particular to internally displaced persons, throughout the territory of the DRC, respecting the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, including humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence, and relevant provisions of international law;

44. *Calls on* MONUSCO to strengthen its collaboration with humanitarian actors and streamline coordination mechanisms with humanitarian agencies to ensure information sharing on protection risks to the population;

45. *Calls on* all Member States to generously contribute to the United Nations humanitarian appeals for the DRC and the region to help ensure that United Nations humanitarian agencies and other international organizations are fully funded and able to address the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, survivors of sexual violence, and other vulnerable communities;

Support to the Group of Experts

46. *Expresses* its full support to the United Nations Group of Experts established by resolution 1533 (2004), *calls for* enhanced cooperation between all States, particularly those in the region, MONUSCO and the Group of Experts, *encourages* timely information exchange between MONUSCO and the Group of Experts, further *encourages* all parties and all States to ensure cooperation with the Group of Experts by individuals and entities within their jurisdiction or under their control and *reiterates* its demand that all parties and all States ensure the safety of its members and its support staff, and unhindered and immediate access, in particular to persons, documents and sites the Group of Experts deems relevant to the execution of its mandate;

Mission effectiveness

47. *Requests* that mechanisms for intra-Mission coordination should be strengthened to enable "whole-of-mission" efforts, particularly on priority issues such as protection of civilians, *requests* in that regard that all components of the MONUSCO Force as well as its police and the civilian components to work together in an integrated way, and *encourages* MONUSCO and the United Nations system in-country to strengthen integration through shared information and joint analysis, as well as joint planning and joint operational activities, based on coordinated knowledge management, comparative advantages and joint implementation arrangements;

48. *Urges* the United Nations to continuously incorporate lessons learned to conduct reforms across MONUSCO to better enable its offices and contingents to implement its mandate, in particular regarding the protection of civilians, and to improve Mission chain of command, increase the effectiveness of MONUSCO operations, strengthen safety and security of personnel, and enhance MONUSCO's ability to manage complex situations, including the risk posed by improvised explosive devices and other explosive hazards;

49. *Demands* that all relevant parties cooperate fully in the deployment, operations, and monitoring, verification, and reporting functions of MONUSCO, in particular by guaranteeing the safety, security, and unrestricted freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel, throughout the territory of the DRC;

50. *Requests* MONUSCO to continue to maximise Force interoperability, flexibility, mobility and effectiveness in the implementation of the entirety of MONUSCO's mandate, including by deploying rapidly deployable units, specialized capabilities, including enhanced information-gathering assets and analysis, specialized infantry, key enablers such as medical evacuation and air assets, and by continuing to modernise and to strengthen the performance of the Force, bearing in mind the safety and security of all military contingents, police officers, military observers, and especially unarmed observers, *calls* on MONUSCO to streamline overall command and control of the Force, in order to increase efficiencies and to improve coordination between all elements of the Force and the police component in priority areas, and *reminds* the Secretary-General of the necessity to keep Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and Statements of Unit Requirements (SURs) between the T/PCCs and the United Nations up to date;

51. *Commends* the commitment of the T/PCCs in implementing the Mission's mandate in a challenging environment, *further encourages* T/PCCs to increase the percentage of women military and police in deployments to MONUSCO, *highlights* that undeclared national caveats, lack of effective command and control, refusal to obey orders, failure to respond to attacks on civilians, and inadequate equipment and information may adversely affect effective mandate implementation, stressing that any national caveat that negatively affects the implementation of mandate effectiveness should not be accepted by the Secretary-General;

52. *Recognizes* that the effective implementation of MONUSCO mandate is a shared responsibility and is contingent upon several critical factors, including well defined, realistic, and achievable mandates; political will, leadership, performance and accountability at all levels; adequate resources; policy, planning and operational guidelines and training; *further recognizes* that measuring and monitoring peacekeeping performance should be based on comprehensive and objective policy with clear and well defined benchmarks; and, in this regard, *welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by the Secretary-General to standardize a culture of performance in UN peacekeeping that operationalizes the Operational Readiness Assurance and Performance Improvement Policy, and conducts mission performance reviews of troop and police contingent performance, and leverages the Peacekeeping Capabilities and Readiness System (PCRS) to ensure performance data informs decisions regarding peacekeepers deployment, and *calls on him* to continue his efforts in this regard;

53. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and police contributing countries to ensure that adequate administrative arrangements are in place to enable timely deployment of Formed Police Units where they are most needed;

54. *Requests* MONUSCO to consider the environmental impacts of its operations when fulfilling its mandated tasks and, in this context, to manage them as

appropriate and in accordance with applicable and relevant General Assembly resolutions and United Nations rules and regulations;

55. *Requests* the Secretary-General to carry out contingency planning in order to consider temporarily reinforcing MONUSCO, looking at all options including through inter-mission cooperation, with the sole purpose of implementing its mandate, and requests the Secretary-General to inform the Security Council of these proposed plans within 90 days from the adoption of this resolution;

Exit strategy

56. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to articulate a phased, progressive and comprehensive exit strategy, working with the Government of the DRC, the UN Country Team and other relevant stakeholders with a view to increasing national ownership and progressively transferring tasks for a smooth exit of MONUSCO, and to keep under constant review the Secretary-General's findings relating to adjustments following the successful holding of elections and sustainable progress towards reducing the threat posed by armed groups;

Strategic review

57. *Takes note of* the strategic review presented by the Secretary-General (S/2017/826) and *endorses* the recommendations relating to proposed adjustments to MONUSCO in the pre-electoral phase, *requests* the Secretary-General to implement changes in the mission leadership and mission support, and to implement a zero-tolerance policy on serious misconduct, sexual exploitation and abuse, fraud, corruption, trafficking in natural resources or wildlife, including by making full use of the existing authority of the SRSG to ensure accountability of the Mission's staff and through effective mission support arrangement;

58. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take full consideration of the evolution of the security situation in implementing changes to the Force, especially when considering the deployment of additional Rapid Deployment Battalions, *further requests* the Secretary-General to continue its work towards improving the efficiency of the Intervention Brigade;

Reports by the Secretary-General

59. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council every three months on the implementation of MONUSCO's mandate, including its Intervention Brigade, as set out in this resolution, including on:

(i) Progress made by the DRC on the implementation of the 31 December 2016 agreement and the electoral process, including on the provisions of paragraphs 1 to 10 above, as well as on the ways in which MONUSCO will be best prepared to address security risks and to monitor and report on human rights violations and abuses in the context of the elections, including in terms of deployment of the Force in areas identified as potential zones of instability and configuration of civilian and police component of MONUSCO, sexual violence and the impact of conflict on women and children using disaggregated data, and any gender considerations made;

(ii) The situation on the ground, including updates on operations to neutralize armed groups, in accordance with paragraph 36.i.d, and any instances where the Mission is not effectively fulfilling its protection of civilians mandate, and the circumstances surrounding these instances, including, as appropriate, incidents where units assert undeclared national caveats, lack effective command and control, refuse to obey orders, fail to respond to attacks on civilians, and have inadequate equipment;

(iii) Progress made by the DRC on protecting human rights and in the implementation of its commitments under the PSC Framework, including through the establishment and implementation of a national SSR roadmap, its provincial stabilization plan supported by the ISSSS and on the implementation of the DDR and DDRRR plans;

(iv) Progress in the implementation of the measures taken to transform MONUSCO and improve its performance, including measures to ensure Mission effectiveness as outlined in paragraphs 47 to 55, steps taken to prevent and redress performance failures, the deployment of rapidly deployable battalions and employment of the Intervention Brigade's capabilities, implementation of the comprehensive approach to protection of civilians, to become more mobile, efficient and effective in implementing its mandate and associated requirements, and on the definition of an exit strategy for MONUSCO, including the Intervention Brigade;

(v) The risks and their implications for the safety and the security for the United Nations personnel and facilities as a result of the possible military operations as well as all instances of threats against MONUSCO personnel, and measures taken to strengthen their security and mitigate risks;

60. *Requests* the Secretary-General to conduct a comprehensive performance review of all MONUSCO units in accordance with the Operational Readiness Assurance and Performance Improvement Policy and the Secretary-General zero-tolerance policy on Sexual violence and abuse by September 2018 and further report to the Council every three months, as part of its regular reporting, on the percentage of MONUSCO contingents who have satisfied the requirements of the these reviews, the status of any remediation action to address contingents who have not satisfied requirements, and detailing plans to address contingents where remediation is not deemed appropriate, as certified by the Force Commander;

61. *Requests* the Secretary-General to update the Security Council in writing every 30 days on political and technical progress towards 23 December 2018 elections, including benchmarks laid out in paragraph 7 above and obstacles to the implementation of the 31 December 2016 agreement, when no regular reports are due;

62. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council every six months, in coordination with the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region and the SRSG for the DRC on the implementation of the commitments under the PSC Framework and its linkages with the broader security situation in the Great Lakes Region;

63. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.